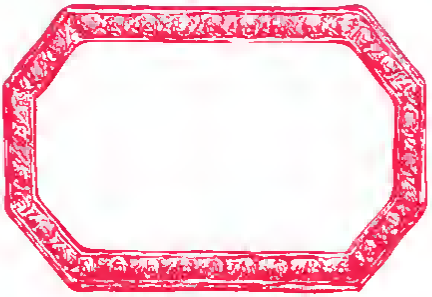
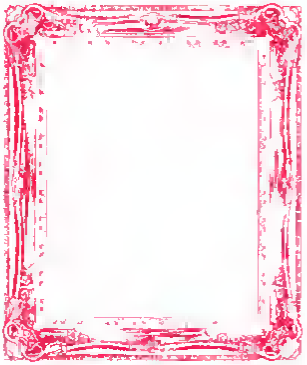
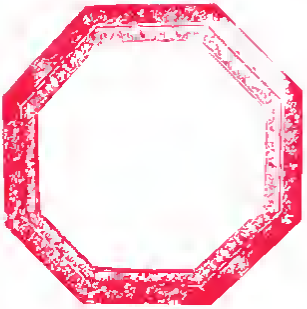
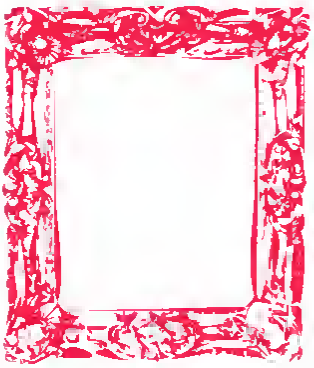
作画 宝井理人
原作 壁井ユカコ
キャラクターデザイン テクノサマタ









SC
鳥籠荘の今日も眠たい住人たち
3
作画 宝井理人
原作 時生井コカコ
キャラクターデザイン テクノサマタ
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Welcome to
Hotel Williams Child Bird

Fate/Williams Child Bird

Illustrated by Rihito Takarai

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鳥籠荘の今日も眠たい住人たち

Character

Inoue Yuki/Yoshioki

Yusei's cousin as well as the person who commuted Kizuna. Dresses like a girl, but he's actually a man!

Asai Yusei

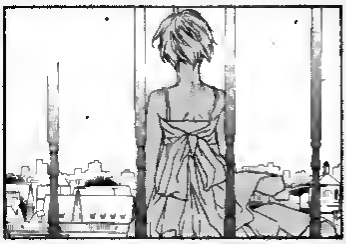
A reclusive painter enjoying newfound professional acclaim. Paint perpetually stains his clothes.

Etoh Kizuna

A 17 year old living in Birdcage Manor. Works part time as Yusei's model.

Story

YUKI'S CAR VEERS OUT OF CONTROL INTO ONCOMING TRAFFIC



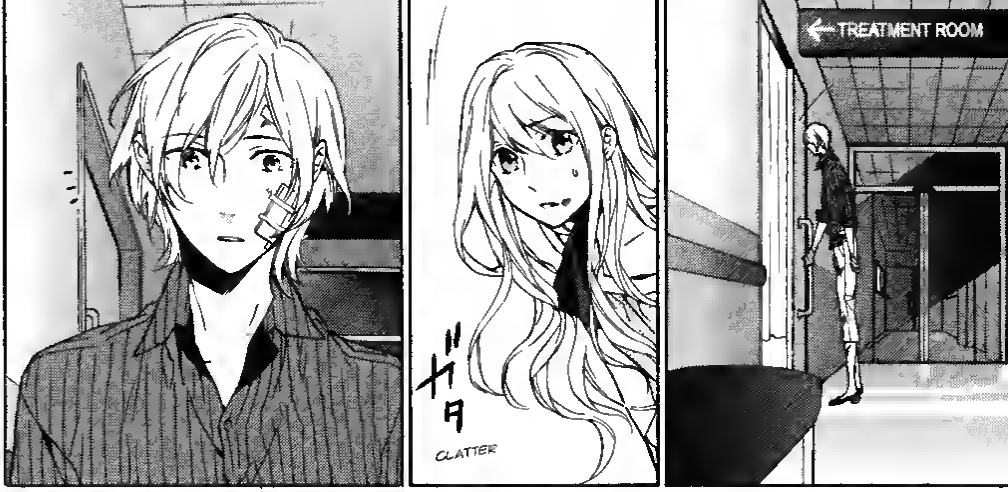
MINAKO PLUMMETS TO HER DEATH BEFORE YUSEI'S EYES

'Hotel Williams Child Bird,' a mysterious apartment building more commonly known by the nickname "Birdcage Manor," is where the painter Yusei, his model Kizuna, Yusei's cousin Yoshioki (who prefers the name Yuki), and the other residents of the complex live their lives in ways which befit their own means. One day, after Kizuna stumbles upon the startling information that she was never meant to be anything more than a physical replacement for a girl named Minako, Yusei's late lover and former model for his paintings, things turn sour between the two of them after a trivial argument explodes into an all-out feud. Yuki decides to take Kizuna out for a day on the town in an attempt to improve her mood, but on the way home they are involved in a head-on collision with a truck. Moments later, Yusei is horrified to discover the two of them were taken away in an ambulance...

SHE HAD LONG, RED HAIR...
...AND THEY TOOK HER FRIEND WITH THEM, TOO.
I DID SEE A GIRL I RECOGNIZED, THOUGH.
THEY TOOK HER AWAY IN AN AMBULANCE.

Chapter 12

His and Her Awkward Sunday, Her and Her (?) Unexpected Saturday (-IV)


CLATTER
TREATMENT ROOM

WELL... YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...
IF THERE'S ONE GOOD THING ABOUT BEING YOUNG...
...IT'S GETTING A FREE PASS TO MAKING A TOTAL IDIOT OF...

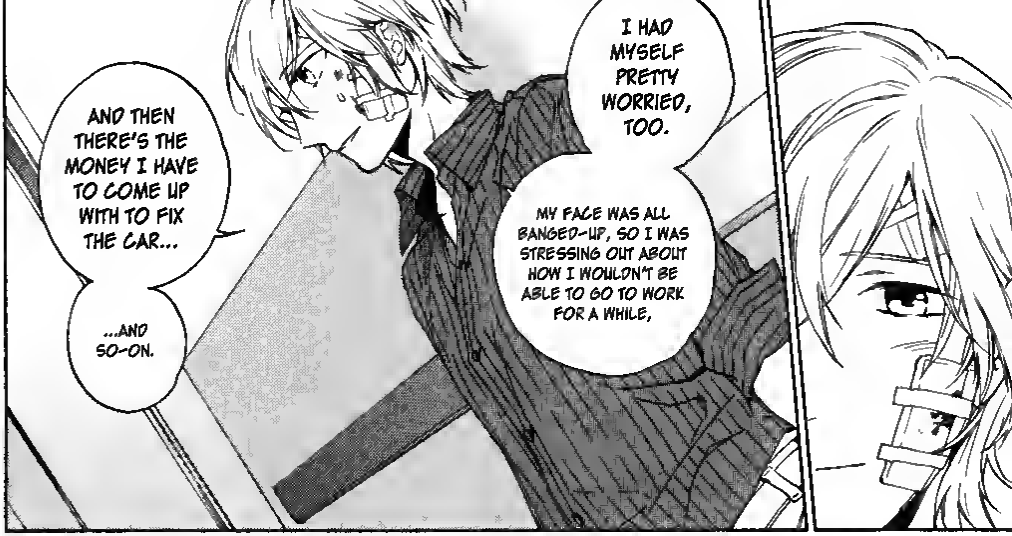
Slap!

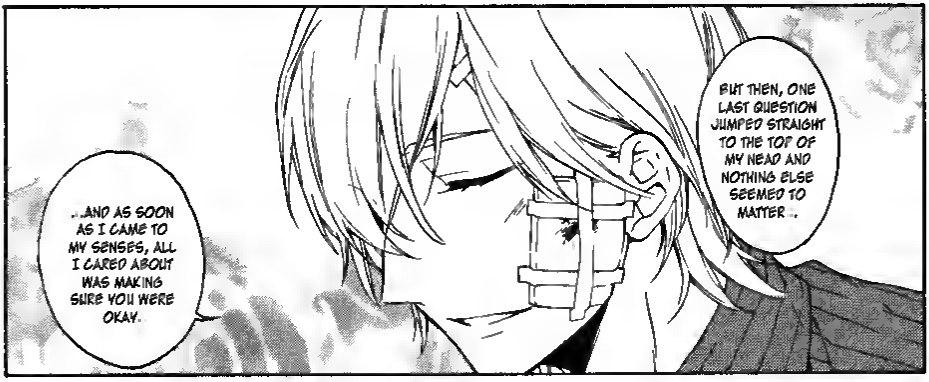
...Ss.
Oww!
HEY, WATCH THE FACE!
THAT'S MY MONEY-MAKER, YOU KN-
IF THAT'S YOUR "MONEY-MAKER"...
THEN TREAT IT WITH A LITTLE MORE RESPECT.
What you did was BEYOND stupid!!
-KIZUNA!

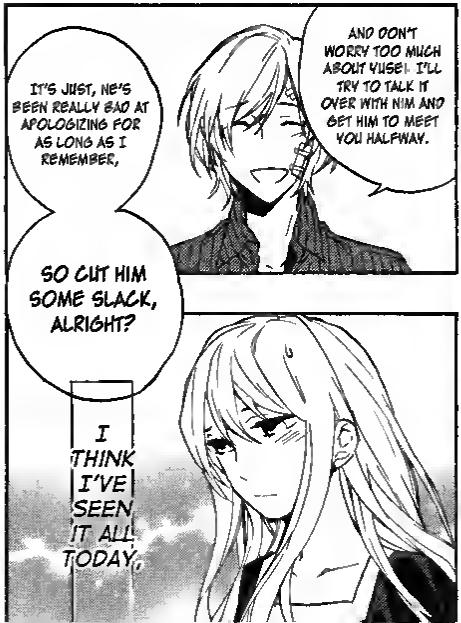
KIZUNA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
ARE YOU HURT?
DOES IT HURT ANY-WHERE?
...YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT...!
...Yuki...

THE WHOLE TIME I WAS SITTING HERE, I COULDN'T STOP THINKING...
...YOU WERE BLEEDING SO MUCH,
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW TERRIFIED I WAS?
...DO-

THANK GOD IT WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS...
THANK GOD...
"WHAT IF HE HAS TO GET STITCHES ..."
OR WHAT IF IT LEAVES A SCAR...


I HAD MYSELF PRETTY WORRIED, TOO.
MY FACE WAS ALL BANGED-UP, SO I WAS STRESSING OUT ABOUT HOW I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO TO WORK FOR A WHILE,
AND THEN THERE'S THE MONEY I HAVE TO COME UP WITH TO FIX THE CAR...
...AND SO-ON.


BUT THEN, ONE LAST QUESTION JUMPED STRAIGHT TO THE TOP OF MY HEAD AND NOTHING ELSE SEEMED TO MATTER...
...AND AS SOON AS I CAME TO MY SENSES, ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS MAKING SURE YOU WERE OKAY.


AND DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT YUSEI. I'LL TRY TO TALK IT OVER WITH HIM AND GET HIM TO MEET YOU HALFWAY.
IT'S JUST, HE'S BEEN REALLY BAD AT APOLOGIZING FOR AS LONG AS I REMEMBER,
SO CUT HIM SOME SLACK, ALRIGHT?
I THINK I'VE SEEN IT ALL TODAY.

THANKS FOR SPENDING THE DAY WITH ME.
IT DIDN'T EXACTLY END THE WAY I WANTED IT TO,
BUT I HAD A REALLY GOOD TIME ALL THE SAME

THE MEAN-SPIRITED YUKI WHO TRIES TO SAY THINGS TO RILE OTHER PEOPLE UP...
THE CHEERFUL YUKI WHO DRESSES UP IN PRETTY CLOTHES...
AND THE YUKI WHO CAN TRANSFORM INTO A HOT-BLOODED MAN WITHOUT ANY WARNING.
THE YUKI WHO CAN'T STAND LOBSTERS.
I'VE SEEN ALL KINDS OF DIFFERENT "YUKI"S TODAY...
Yowch...
BUT THE REAL YUKI, DEEP DOWN BELOW...
YOU GOT A LITTLE SCRAPED-UP.
HUH?
KIZUNA, YOUR CHIN.
I WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT HE'S REALLY LIKE...?

I HAD OUR PERFECT DATE ALL PLANNED OUT... AND NOW IT'S IN SHAMBLES...
SLUMP
GREAT, I CAN'T BELIEVE I EVEN GOT YOU HURT... I SUCK...
AAGH...
The hell it isn't!
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH, THOUGH... NOTHING MAJOR.
OH, YEAH...
HEHEH
THE "PERFECT" DATE, HUH? IF YOU ASK ME, IT WAS PRETTY MUCH DOOMED RIGHT FROM THE GET...
...GO...

EXCUSE ME!
救急
EMERG
RATTLE
stretch
slow

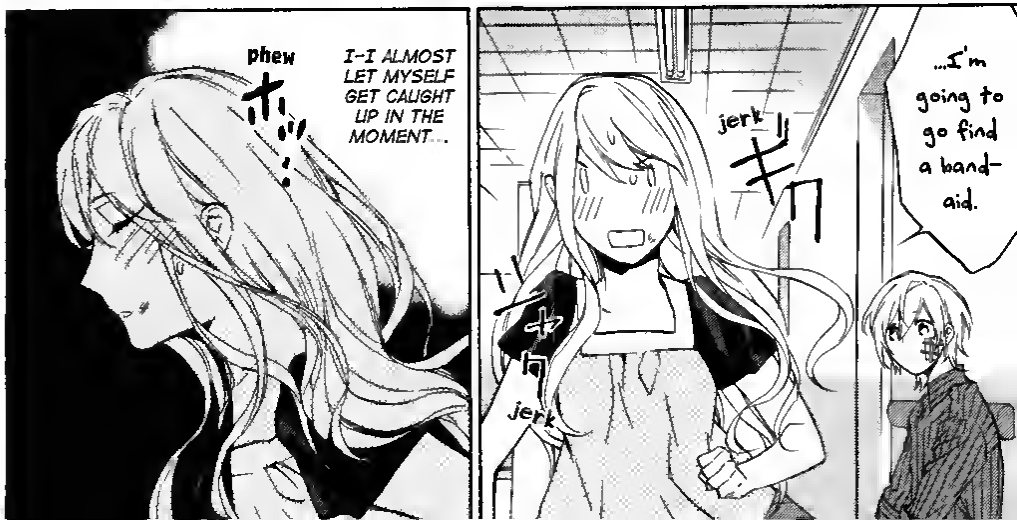
LET'S SEE... HOLD ON, I'LL LOOK IT UP FOR YOU.
flip
パラパラ
flip
YES, HERE HE IS.

I'M SORRY, BUT THAT PATIENT'S ALREADY...
Dash

I NEED TO KNOW IF MY FRIENDS WERE BROUGHT HERE IN AN AMBULANCE!
IT SHOULD BE UNDER THE NAME INOUE YOSHIOKI, AND...
AND HE SHOULD HAVE HAD SOMEONE ELSE WITH HIM...!

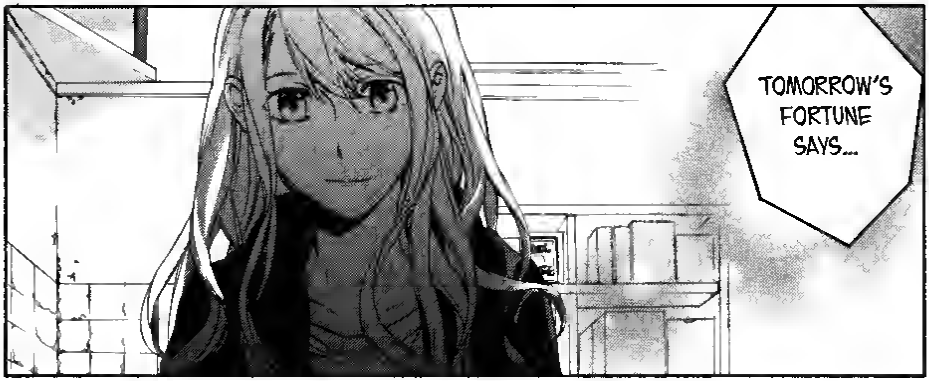
Great, I can't believe I even got you hurt... I suck...
Huh...
!
...
wobble
THEY'RE OKAY...
...I'LL BE DAMNED
YOSHI- OK!...
grumble
I'M GOING TO SHOVE YOU THROUGH THAT GOD- DAMN WALL.
Pant
HAD ME SCARED FOR NO- THING
HAAH ...
I WAS AFRAID THE WORST HAD HAPPENED...

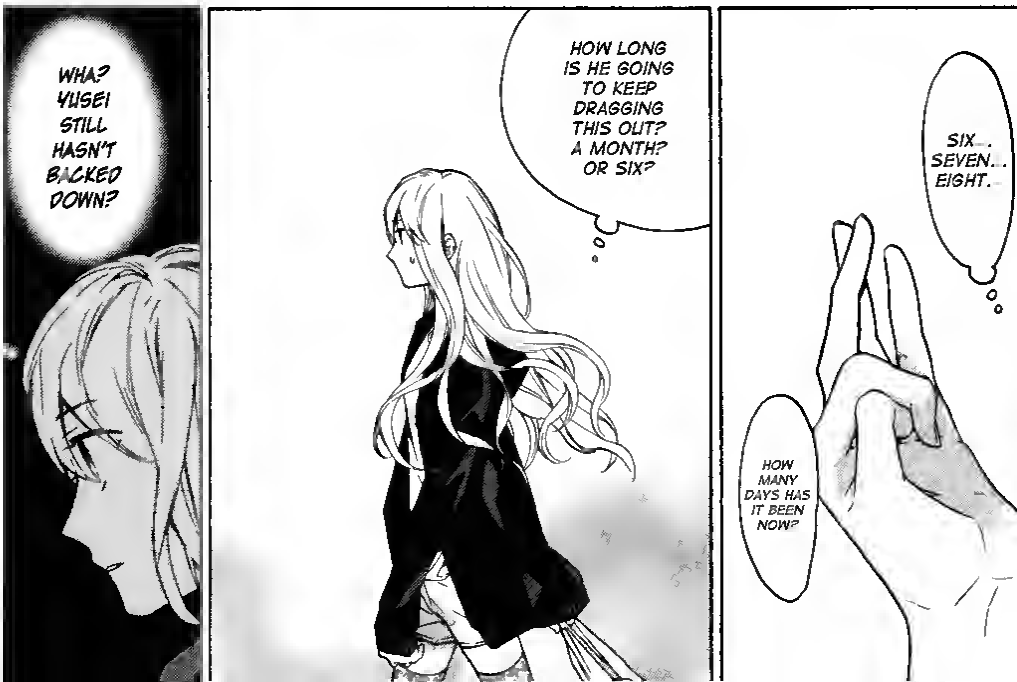
...YOU DIDN'T MOVE AWAY THAT TIME,
DID YOU?
Th-The cheek is different
The cheek is okay!
And that time was an exception!!
It's my way of thanking you for showing me a good time today, that's all!
smile


phew
I-I ALMOST LET MYSELF GET CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT...
jerk
jerk
...I'm going to go find a band-aid.

SQUEAK
キィ
……？

...AND NOW FOR TODAY'S FORTUNE
TODAY IS AN UNLUCKY DAY. EXERCISE CAUTION.
YOUR LUCKY ITEM IS AN UMBRELLA. ★


TOMORROW'S FORTUNE SAYS...


WHA? YUSEI STILL HASN'T BACKED DOWN?
HOW LONG IS HE GOING TO KEEP DRAGGING THIS OUT? A MONTH? OR SIX?
HOW MANY DAYS HAS IT BEEN NOW?
SIX... SEVEN... EIGHT...

YUSEI CAN BE KIND OF HARD TO READ BECAUSE OF HIS KILLER POKER FACE.
BUT HE'S USUALLY NOT THIS MOODY. NOT UNLESS YOU CATCH HIM RIGHT AFTER HE WAKES UP, ANYWAY.
YOU'RE ASKING ME...?
WHY NOT?
I GUESS HE'S STILL MAD AT ME.
HELL, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?
HE'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO FORGETS MOST STUFF ONCE YOU LET HIM GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST.
HMM... BUT YOU KNOW...
I'M NOT SURE IF THAT'S ADMIRATION OR ADMONITION I DETECT IN YOUR VOICE
THIS IS KIND OF STRANGE FOR HIM...
...AFTER HE PUT IT...
IN THOSE WORDS...
I'M STARTING TO THINK WHATEVER I DID WAS REALLY, REALLY BAD...

drip
ポツ
Ah...
RUMBLE
ゴロゴロ
SHAAAA...
It's raining...
SHAA...
KRA-KOOM!
FLASH
EEP!
splish
splash

第12話 END

The Sleepy Residents of Birdcage Manor Vol 3, ch. 12 ver.2

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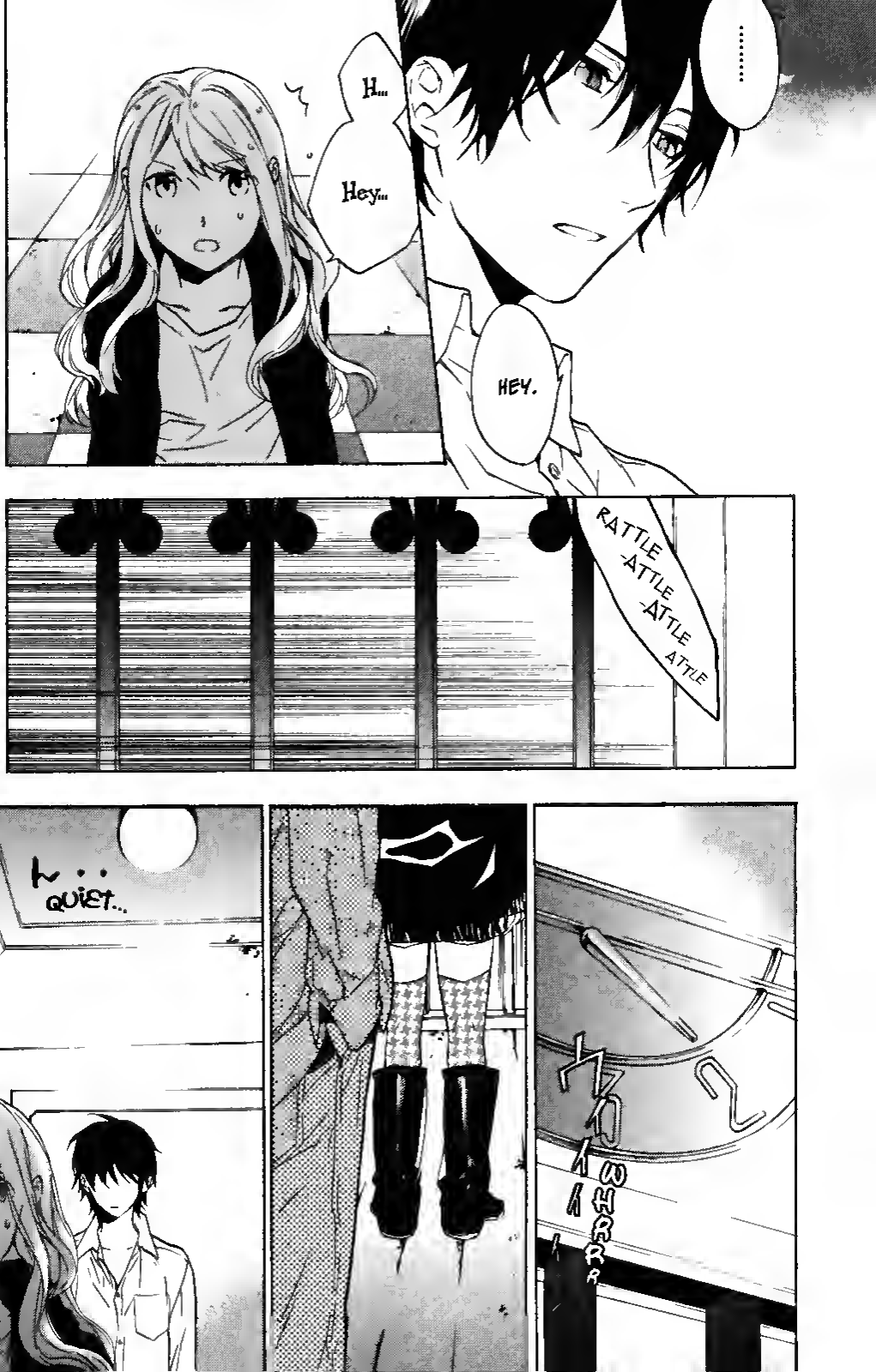
July 20th, 2011

Chapter 13
It Took Two Weeks for You to Say, "See You Tomorrow Night at 9." (1)

PING
AWW, GREAT... JUST MY LUCK!
YUCK.
DASH
HEY! HOLD THE ELEVATOR, PLEASE!
SHAA
THANKS.
HUFF
HUFF


.....
H...
Hey...
HEY.
RATTLE
-ATTLE
-ATTLE
ATTLE
QUIET...
ハンガー

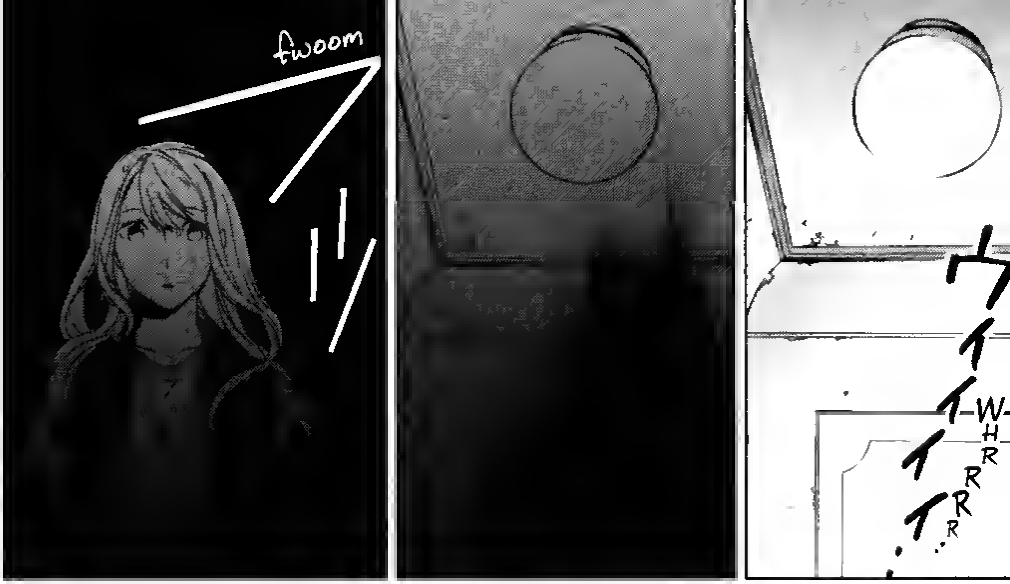
I WONDER IF HE'S STILL MAD AT ME...
RRRR...
イイイ:

"MODEL FOR ME TOMORROW, IF YOU'VE GOT THE TIME,"
...OR ANYTHING REMOTELY CLOSE TO THAT, AND EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE.

EVEN I WOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM APOLOGIZING AFTER HE SAID THAT.

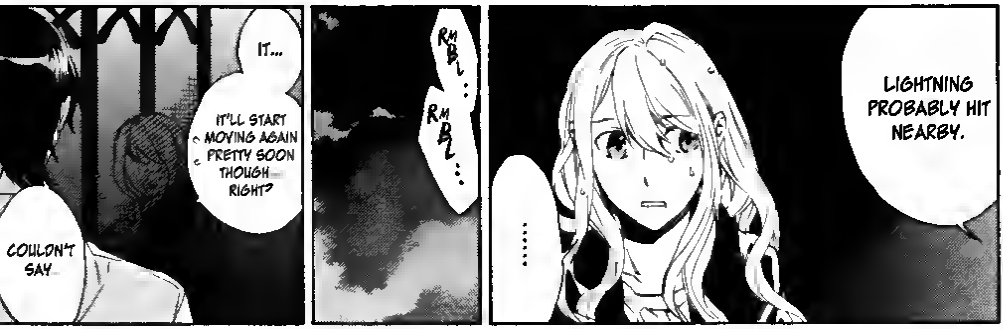
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE THIS WHOLE MESS IS EXCLUSIVELY ASAI-SAN'S FAULT, OR ANYTHING.
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T EVEN WANT HIM TO COME RIGHT OUT AND APOLOGIZE
ALL I WANT TO HEAR FROM HIM IS

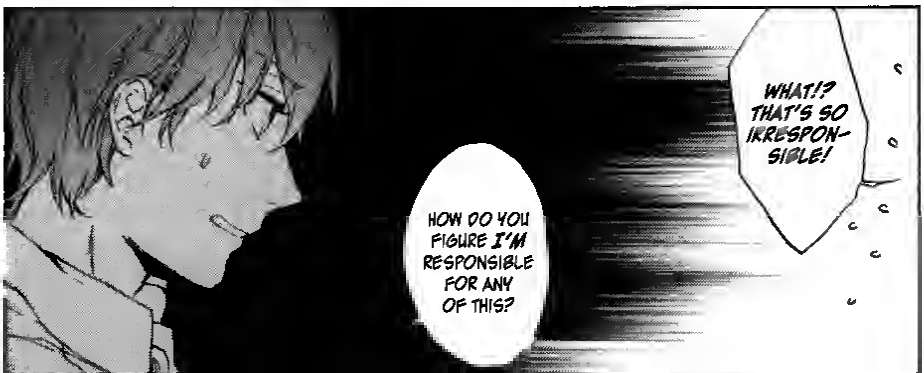
WHRRR...RRR...
AAAGH.
COME ON!
YOU, ME, ALONE IN A CURSED ELEVATOR?
THAT'S PRACTICALLY A WRITTEN INVITATION RIGHT THERE!
COME ON!!
YOU KNOW I'M GETTING OFF AT THE FOURTH FLOOR, RIGHT?
NO POINT KICKING YOURSELF AFTER THAT, 'CAUSE ONCE I'M GONE, THAT'S IT!
JUST DO IT! SUCK IT UP AND TALK TO ME!
TELL ME..
YOU WANT ME TO MODEL FOR YOU TOMORROW...
WHIID..


fwoom
ウイイイイ
WHRRRRR

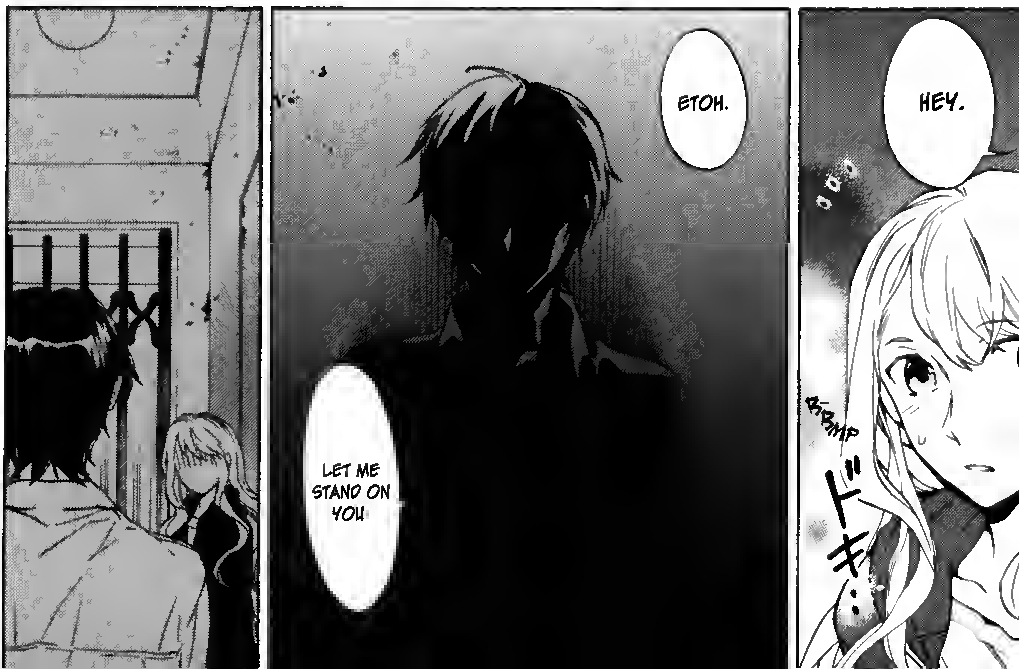
RR...
CLANK
CLUNK
WAH...!
DROP

WH... WHAT JUST ...?
POWER OUTAGE.
..TH-
THE POWERS OUT?


IT...
IT'LL START MOVING AGAIN PRETTY SOON THOUGH RIGHT?
COULDN'T SAY
RMBL..
RMBL...
LIGHTNING PROBABLY HIT NEARBY.
.....


WHAT!? THAT'S SO IRRESPON-SIBLE!
HOW DO YOU FIGURE I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THIS?

I WONDER HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN STUCK HERE NOW ..
TEN MINUTES .. MAYBE TWENTY?
...AAAND THE LIGHTS ARE STILL OUT.
YEP. STILL OUT...
.....
THIS...
...IS ALL KINDS OF AWKWARD...


ETOH.
LET ME STAND ON YOU
HEY.
BABAP
ドキ

I WANT TO SEE IF WE CAN MAKE IT OUT FROM THE TOP.
HUH?
I'M SORRY, WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

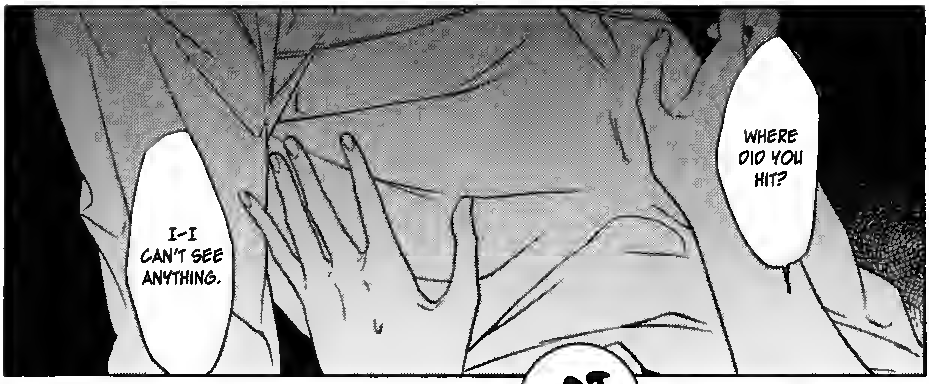
UP THERE...?

HEY, WHY SHOULD I BE THE ONE ON BOTTOM!?
IT'S USUALLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND!
I CAN REACH HIGHER THAN YOU.
ORS: OUTSIDE
W...WILL YOU TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF FIRST?
FINE.

SI
NK
HNGH!
READY ?
Y-YEP. GO AHEAD.
HEEE-AAAVY!
HUR-RYYY!
HEEE...
JU-
JUST GIVE ME A SECOND...

EEEEEH!?
THE SECOND GATE'S SHUT.
HUH?
SO MUCH FOR THAT. CAN'T GET IT OPEN.
CLANK
CLANK
AH
SINK
WOULD YOU PIPE DOWN?
LET ME...
WOBBLE
HNGH
G...!
NOT
GET OFFF... HURRYYY
EEK!
TH-
WHUD

Not...
again...
ASAI-SAN?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
NGH
!!!
...Ss.
OWWW... UGH.


I-I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.
WHERE DID YOU HIT?

PAT
!
Ee...!

WHY ARE YOUR HANDS SO DAMN COLD?
ER? MY HANDS...?
LEAP
O-
OHMIGOD. SORRY!
ETOH...
OHH...
IT STARTED RAINING JUST AS I GOT HOME.
sigh...
...DAMN IT.
JUST BE CAREFUL, ALRIGHT?
IF YOU CATCH A COLD, OR SOME-THING...
AH...

.....
NOTHING...
IF I...
...CAUGHT A COLD— WHAT?
"...YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO WORK FOR ME."
AND HE WAS SO CLOSE TO SAYING IT, TOO...
UGH.. HE'S STILL NOT BACKING DOWN...
>SIGH<
UGH...

RMBL RMBL...
...CRASH...
"We should get naked and warm each other up with our body heat!" ♡
OR SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THAT
THIS WOULD BE SO MUCH E. SIER WITH YUKI. HE'D ♡ PROB. BLY SAY:
AND HERE WE ARE... STUCK ON THIS ELEVATOR WITH NO MEANS OF ESCAPE, AND
AN EVEN MORE AWKWARD ATMO- SPHERE PRESSING DOWN ON US THAN THERE WAS BEFORE.
THEN I COULD JUST BLOW IT OFF AS A JOKE, AND THAT WOULD BE THE END OF IT, BUT..
AHH! NO, NO, NO!
BEING STUCK WITH YUKI IN A PLACE LIKE THIS WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO PUTTING MY VIRTUE IN PERIL!
SHAKE
SHAKE
IN THAT SENSE, NOW I'M GLAD IT'S ASAI-SAN HERE WITH ME!
DRIFT

FWUMP
JOLT
WAAH!!?

Whoa!
Wah!
A-
ASAI-SAN!?

Zz—
HE'S ASLEEP……?
Z^Z—!!
!
FLOP
HE…

JEEZE.
ZZ—
ASAI SAN IS PRACTICALLY DEFENSE-LESS OVER HERE
...ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT HIM...
Whoa, whoa...
BUT... HE'S SO WARM.
Ahh.
CREAK
SNORE
Dead to the world.
ZZ!
MAYBE HE'S NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP?

...WHAT...?
...JUST BECAUSE THE FACE IS THE SAME, DOES THAT MAKES IT OKAY TO YOU?

I'M SAYING,
YOU DON'T MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN ME AND YOSHIOKI
.....?
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU...WERE WATCHING US...?
WH...
HOW?
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T COME TO THE HOSPITAL. WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING IF YOU WERE JUST STANDING THERE?
I WASN'T WATCHING, PER SE...
BUT I SAW.

YOU-
YOU PEEPING TOM! GLOOMY JERK!!
PISSY-PANTS!
Hey.
WOULD YOU LISTEN TO ME?
I JUST SAID I DIDN'T MEAN TO WATCH
THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SPOKEN UP.
YOU HEARD ABOUT THE ACCIDENT AND CAME TO PICK US UP, RIGHT?
SO WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?

WHY--?

Huh?
WHY DIDN'T I?
!
GOOD QUES-TION.
UH...

TMP
TMP
TMP
WH...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
WHY...?

!!
HELLO? ANYONE DOWN THERE?

FLASH
FLASH

WELL... IF IT ISN'T ASAI-KUN AND KIZUNA-SAN!
ugh, brilliant
AH!
YOU BOTH OKAY? HOLD ON, I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THERE IN A JIFFY
MANA-GER...?

OH...
.....
I'M SORRY...
CLICK

WAS I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING?

第13話 END

The Sleepy Residents of Birdcage Manor Vol 3, ch. 13

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October 16th 2011

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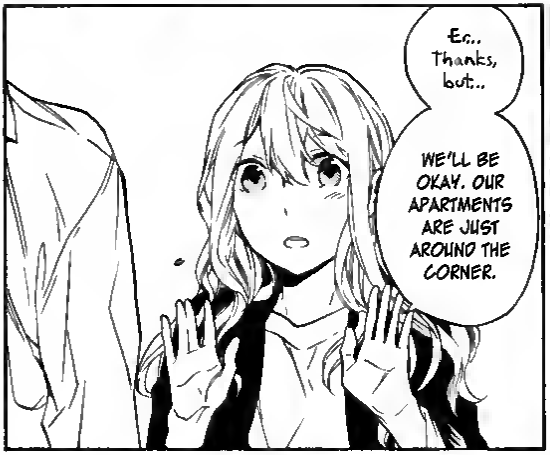
Clov3r
Scanned by Melfra

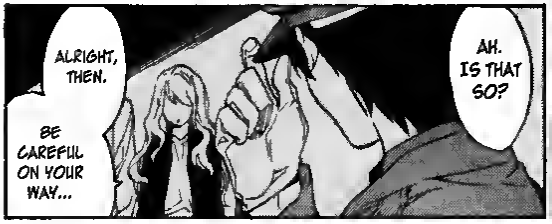
Chapter 14

It Took Two Weeks for You to Say, "See You Tomorrow Night at 9." (1)

THANKS TO THAT LIGHTHING STRIKE A WHILE AGO, THE POWER'S OUT IN THE ENTIRE COMPLEX.
IT'S BEEN A PRETTY ROUGH NIGHT SO FAR
WELL...


WE'LL BE OKAY. OUR APARTMENTS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
Er.. Thanks, but..

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO MAKE MY ROUNDS AROUND THE BUILDING TO CHECK UP ON THE OTHER TENANTS. LET ME DROP YOU TWO OFF AT YOUR ROOMS ON THE WAY.


ALRIGHT, THEN.
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY...
AH. IS THAT SO?

KLAK
KLAK

YOU'D BETTER GET TO YOUR ROOM AND CHANGE INTO SOME WARM CLOTHES.
...WAH...
CHOO!

Uh, hello!?
WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID?
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU YOU'RE GONNA GET SICK BEFORE YOU GET THAT THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULL?
DID YOU NOT HEAR HIM JUST SAY THE ELECTRICITY'S OUT!? IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD TAKE A SHOWER EVEN IF I WANTED TO!
AND STOP CALLING ME STUPID - I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT!

WE-E-LL.
I THINK I'LL BE ALRIGHT MY CLOTHES ARE ALREADY DRY, AND ALL .
BESIDES, IT'S TOO MUCH OF A HASSLE TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING TO WEAR WITH THE LIGHTS OUT.

THE HELL YOU CAN!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
WOULD IT INCONVENIENCE YOU IN SOME WAY IF I CAUGHT A COLD OR SOMETHING!?
YEAH. IT WOULD!
ACTUALLY

...NOTHING. FORGET IT.

THEN TELL ME...!
SAY I DID COME DOWN WITH SOMETHING...
THEN WHAT?

Slump
IT'S LIKE WE'RE BACK IN THAT ELEVATOR ALL OVER AGAIN!
OHHHH MYYYY GOD!

.....
Uh...
LATER.

THAT ARROGANT, STUBBORN, BULLYING ASS! WHY WON'T HE JUST SPIT IT OUT?!
I ONLY WANT HIM TO SAY SOMETHING CASUAL, LIKE, "BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO YOUR JOB!" THAT'S IT!!

I...
I HAVE TO SAY SOME-THING.

THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG THIS CRUSHING ATMOSPHERE WILL PERSIST BETWEEN HIM AND ME...
...I COULDN'T TAKE THAT...
...AH.
IF HE LEAVES NOW AND NEVER TURNS BACK,

ASAI-SAN, I...
I KNOW YOU DON'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO OTHER PEOPLE, OR CARE ABOUT THEM AT ALL, REALLY...
BUT THAT'S JUST PART OF WHAT MAKES YOU YOU, RIGHT?

I CAN'T TAKE THIS!
H...
HEY, LISTEN...!

JUST LISTEN FOR A SECOND.
THE THING ABOUT YOU, ASAI-SAN, IS THAT YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T HAVE TO DO WITH YOU. I MEAN-- YOU'VE GOT THIS LINE DRAWN AROUND YOURSELF SEPARATING YOU FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD, AND ANYTHING THAT FALLS OUTSIDE THAT CIRCLE YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT, AND YOU'RE THIS CALLOUS JERK ABOUT EVERYTHING.
YOU'RE JUST TOTALLY DISINTERESTED, RIGHT?
.....
OKAY, SERIOUSLY, WHAT THE HELL?
.....
THAT WAS SUDDEN.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?

I don't mean it in a bad way!
EXCUSE THE HELL OUT OF ME...
FOR BEING A CALLOUS JERK.

I THINK IF I REALLY NEEDED SOMEONE TO TRUST, I'D PICK A GUY LIKE THAT...
OVER A GUY WHO'D BE NICE TO EVERYONE AND ANYONE HE SEES.
THAT'S...
THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF PERSON THAT MAKES UP "ASAI YUSEI"...

WORKING WITH A PERSON LIKE YOU IS, WELL...
OH, JEEZE
SO,
I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
AT THIS POINT...
...I'VE ALL BUT FORGOTTEN WHAT IT WAS I WAS BUILDING UP TO.
WHAT WAS IT, AGAIN?
Um
AT THIS MOMENT,
WHAT I WANT TO SAY MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE
OH, JEEZE... THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO SAY IN THE FIRST PLACE...!
Um.. Umm!
COME ON, KIZUNA, GET YOUR THOUGHTS TOGETHER.
THE FACT THAT YOU WERE CONCERNED FOR MY HEALTH...
MEANS YOU STILL HAVE SOME REGARD FOR ME AS YOUR MODEL IF NOTHING ELSE. RIGHT, ASAI-SAN?
IS THAT WHAT YOU MEANT IT AS?

I want to...
Go over to your place...
and work for... You.

SILENCE...
I'LL BET THAT DIDN'T MAKE A BIT OF SENSE...
.....

AGH...!
WHAT'S WITH THE BROKEN ENGLISH!?
EVEN I'M OFFENDED!

……
……
……?
HUH…!?
WAIT, WHAT!?
YOU…!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU…
YOU COULD SAY SOMETHING THAT EMBARRASSING RIGHT TO A GUY'S FACE…!
HUH!?
I-
I NEVER SAID ANYTHING EMBARRASSING!
おおおお
BLUSH

I'M TELLING YOU, HOLD ON!
grab
OH, FINE! WHATEVER!
I TRIED TO SUCK IT UP AND BACK DOWN FIRST, DAMMIT!
BUT IF ALL YOU'RE GOING TO DO IS MAKE FUN OF ME, THEN FORGET I EVEN BROUGHT IT UP!
HEY...!
dash

.....
I'M NOT MAKING FUN OF YOU.
...WELL...
LOOK.

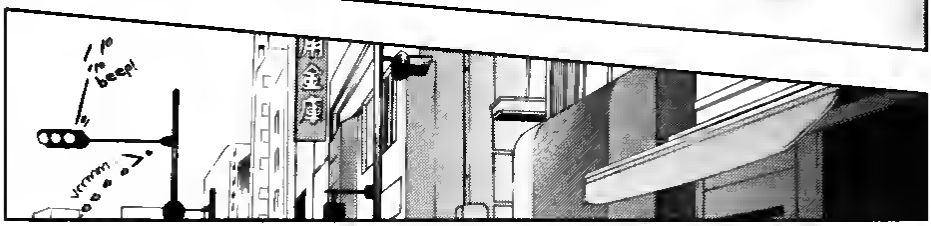
I'M GETTING A LOT OF PRESSURE TO FINISH SOMETHING IN TIME FOR THE EXHIBITION AT THE GALLERY...
AND IT'S... STARTING TO LOOK LIKE I'M GOING TO GET MYSELF IN SOME TROUBLE IF I DON'T START HAMMERING SOMETHING OUT PRETTY SOON
ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, THIS POWER-OUTAGE, AND US GOING AT IT LIKE THIS... IT'S MAKING A REALLY BAD THING EVEN WORSE.
I MEAN...

WELL...
IF YOU'VE GOT THE TIME...
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW NIGHT... AT NINE.

...YOU'RE NOT MAD AT ME ANYMORE?
I'M NOT REALLY MAD ABOUT IT.
AND? WHAT OTHER THING?
THE THING ABOUT YUKI AND ME KISSING...
L... LIKE I COULD EVER BRING IT UP, THOUGH...
ALRIGHT, FINE!
SO WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN CALLING ME, THEN?
DO YOU REALLY NEED ME TO ANSWER THAT?
SHOULD I BE?
You know_
About what happened at the party?
And that other thing

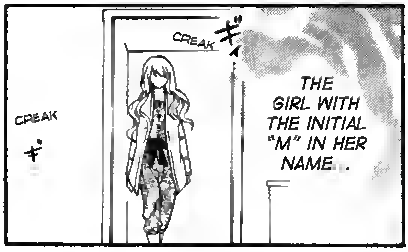
TMP
TMP
WAS IT REALLY BECAUSE
.....
WELL, WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
I'M JUST ASKING YOU TO COME BACK.
B-BMP
B-BMP
YOU WERE JEALOUS ...?
MAYBE NOW...
WE'VE FINALLY MADE AMENDS...
AFTER SPENDING TWO WEEKS GOING AROUND AND AROUND IN CIRCLES, I ALMOST HAVE TO LAUGH AT HOW STUPID I WAS.
TODAY WILL BE AN UNLUCKY DAY FOR YOU.
EXERCISE CAUTION.
YOUR LUCKY ITEM WILL BE AN UMBRELLA.
BUT IT'S THANKS TO MY LACK OF AN UMBRELLA THAT WE COULD TALK THINGS OVER,
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, ASAI-SAN AND I COULD PATCH THINGS UP.

FORTUNES DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE RIGHT.

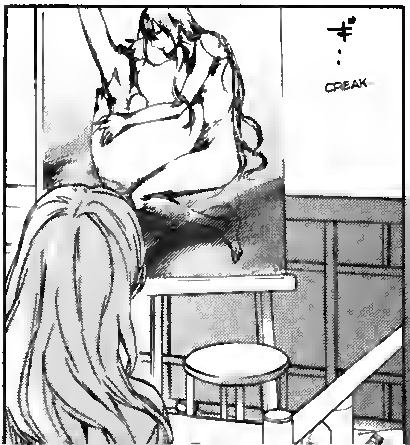


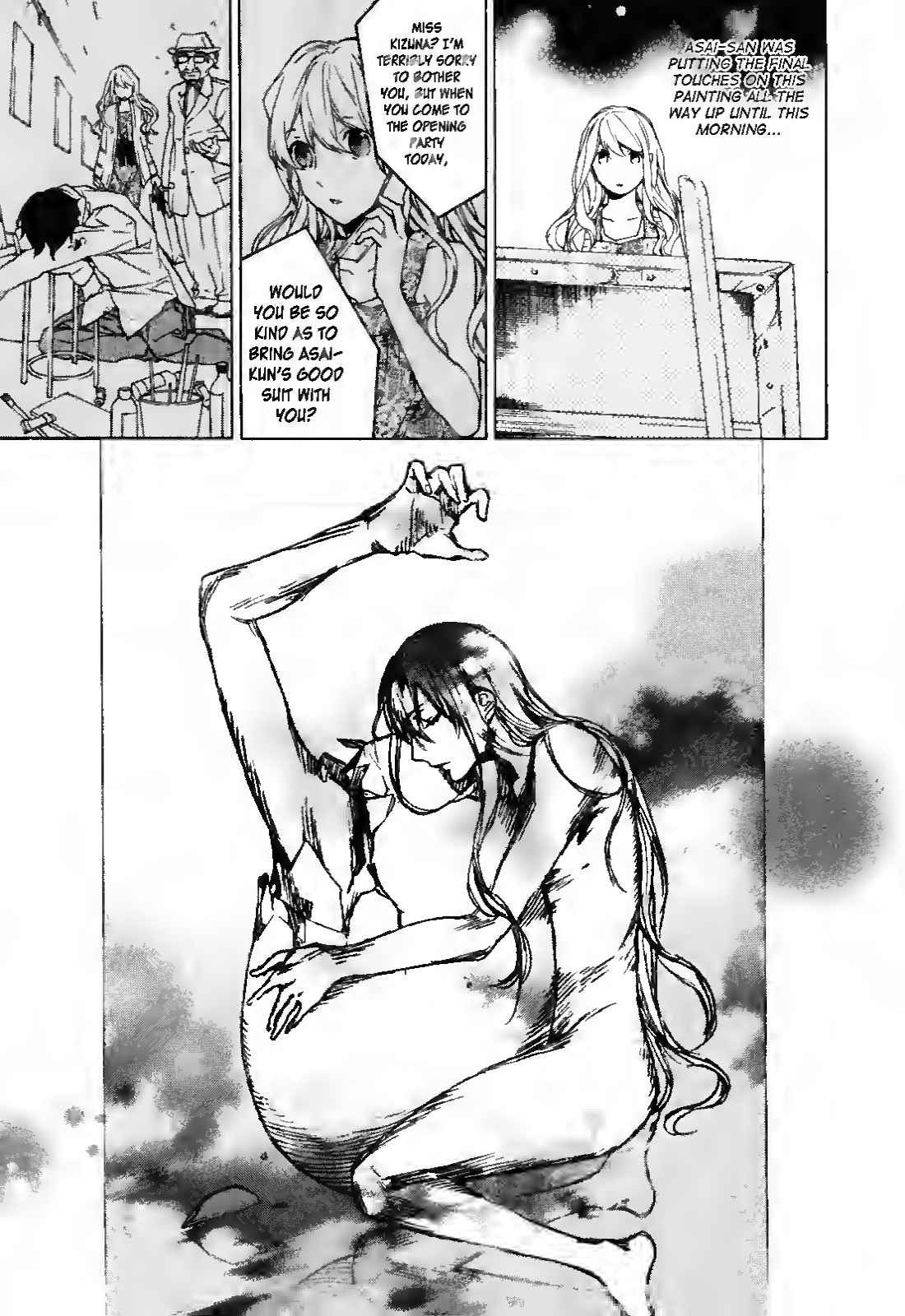
"THERE COMES A TIME IN THE LIFE OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD WHERE THEY STAND PROUD IN THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE GRAND STAGE OF LIFE."
AS FOR TODAY'S ACTOR IN THE SPOT-LIGHT...
WHO DID I HEAR THAT FROM? MY HOMEROOM TEACHER IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
HE'S FINALLY UP THERE ON THE "GRAND STAGE OF LIFE," BUT I WOULDN'T EXACTLY SAY "STANDING" IN THE STRICTEST OF SENSES.
EVEN HIS EYES ARE ONLY HALFWAY OPEN
Not to mention the wrinkly shirt...

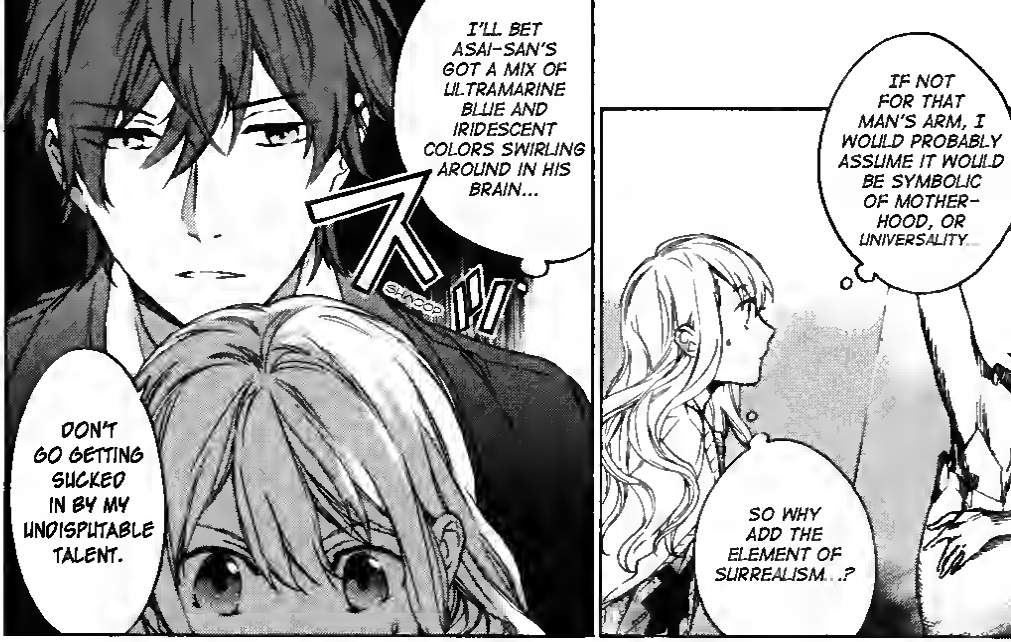
TODAY MARKS THE OPENING OF AOYAMA PARK GALLERY'S SOLO EXHIBITION FOR ASAI YUSEI,
TITLED "A PORTRAIT OF M."
AS FAR AS GALAS GO, THE OPENING PARTY ISN'T ANYTHING SPECIAL. BUT BECAUSE THIS PARTY IS IN CELEBRATION OF THE OPENING OF UP-AND-COMING PAINTER ASAI YUSEI'S VERY FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION,
AN EVENT MAGAZINE WRITERS AND DIE-HARD ART COLLECTORS ALIKE HAVE BEEN FLOCKING TO IN DROVES
CAN'T SAY RUBBING ELBOWS WITH A BUNCH OF BIG-WIGS IS MUCH OF A TIME-WASTER.
chatter
chatter
I THINK I'M GONNA HANG OUT IN THE GALLERY ON THE FIRST FLOOR...

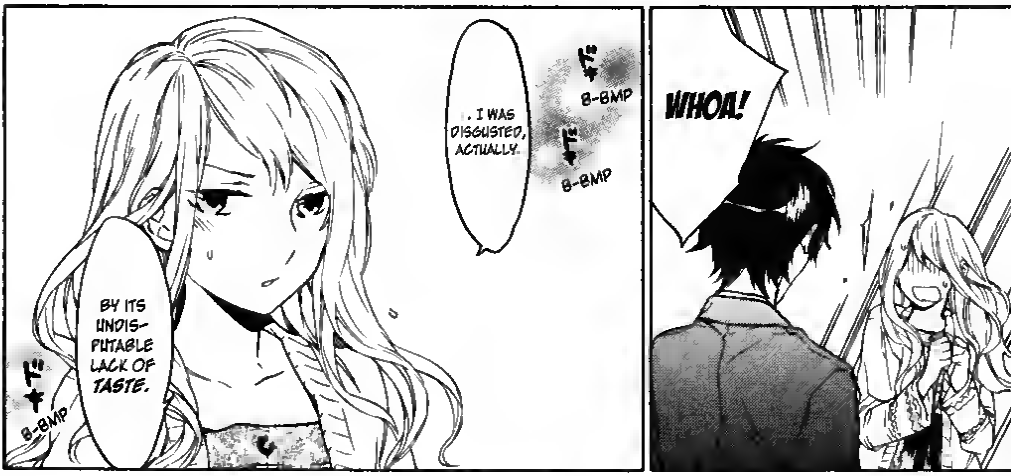


"A PORTRAIT OF M."



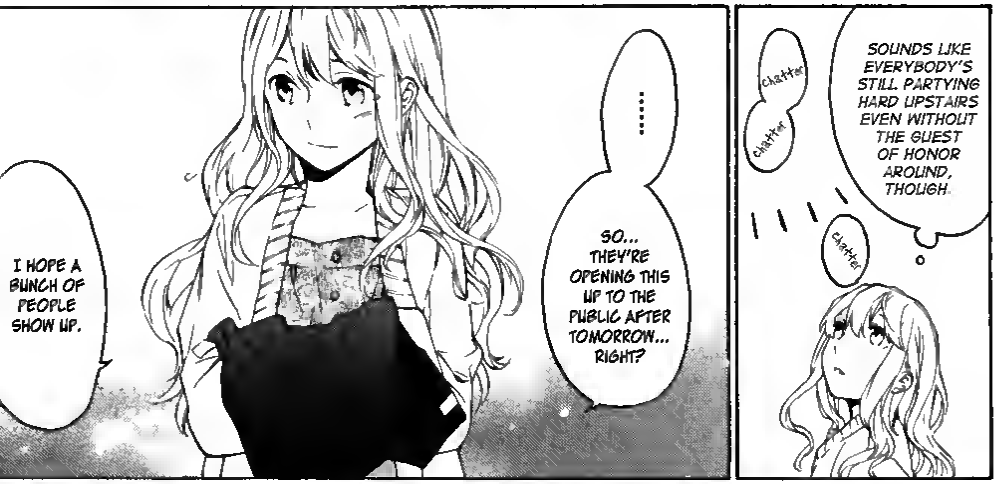

ASAI-SAN WAS PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES ON THIS PAINTING ALL THE WAY UP UNTIL THIS MORNING...
MISS KIZUNA? I'M TERRIBLY SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT WHEN YOU COME TO THE OPENING PARTY TODAY,
WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO BRING ASAI-KUN'S GOOD SUIT WITH YOU?


I'LL BET ASAI-SAN'S GOT A MIX OF ULTRAMARINE BLUE AND IRIDESCENT COLORS SWIRLING AROUND IN HIS BRAIN...
SHOCK
DON'T GO GETTING SUCKED IN BY MY UNDISPUTABLE TALENT.
IF NOT FOR THAT MAN'S ARM, I WOULD PROBABLY ASSUME IT WOULD BE SYMBOLIC OF MOTHER-HOOD, OR UNIVERSALITY...
SO WHY ADD THE ELEMENT OF SURREALISM...?

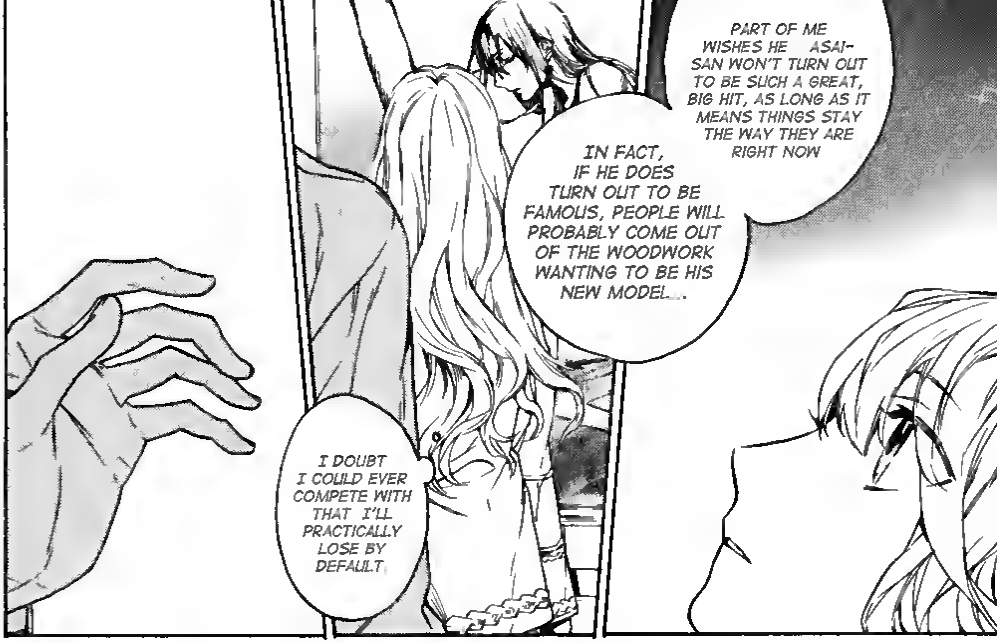

. I WAS DISGUSTED, ACTUALLY.
B-BMP
B-BMP
BY ITS UNDIS-PUTABLE LACK OF TASTE.
B-BMP
WHOA!

I DITCHED.
SEEING AS YOU'RE THE MAIN EVENT, AND ALL.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE UPSTAIRS?

Ugh...
Ugh... Im gonna be sick...
.....
AFTER ALL THAT WINE YOU GUZZLED DOWN ON TOP OF THAT ALL-NIGHTER? NO SURPRISE THERE...
FWAP
!
HEY!


I HOPE A BUNCH OF PEOPLE SHOW UP.
.....
SO... THEY'RE OPENING THIS UP TO THE PUBLIC AFTER TOMORROW... RIGHT?
clatter
clatter
clatter
SOUNDS LIKE EVERYBODY'S STILL PARTYING HARD UPSTAIRS EVEN WITHOUT THE GUEST OF HONOR AROUND, THOUGH.

BUT I'M NOT THAT'S THE PROBLEM NOT IN THE LEAST
I ALWAYS FIGURED IF ASAI-SAN TURNED OUT TO BE A HIT, THEN NATURALLY I'D BE ECSTATIC TOO
FUNNY
Phew...
!


I DOUBT I COULD EVER COMPETE WITH THAT. I'LL PRACTICALLY LOSE BY DEFAULT.
IN FACT, IF HE DOES TURN OUT TO BE FAMOUS, PEOPLE WILL PROBABLY COME OUT OF THE WOODWORK WANTING TO BE HIS NEW MODEL...
PART OF ME WISHES HE ASAI-SAN WON'T TURN OUT TO BE SUCH A GREAT, BIG HIT, AS LONG AS IT MEANS THINGS STAY THE WAY THEY ARE RIGHT NOW

GRAB
HM?

WHAT? ASAI-SAN?
HEY, KNOCK IT OFF! YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME SHRINK!
strain
strain
strain...
HNGH!
HUH?
I can't turn around!

SKRUFAN
I NEVER WOULD HAVE MADE IT HERE, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU.

THANKS.

..That's it.
SHFF
I'm gonna throw up.
Ulp
.....
HEY...
WAS THAT SARCASM?
Jerk
I DON'T CARE IF HE THANKS ME...

WHATEVER HE SAYS, HE'S ONLY THANKING ME FOR MAKING HIS EXHIBITION DEDICATED TO "M" A SUCCESS...
AND IT ONLY LEAVES A SOUR TASTE IN MY MOUTH.
HIS JACKET, FRESH FROM THE CLEANERS,
STILL CARRIES THE MINUTEST TRACE OF THE SMELL OF OIL PAINTS.
BUT TO ME, IT'S NO DIFFERENT THAN A DRUG;
A DRUG I'VE COME TO CRAVE.

第14話 END

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The Sleepy Residents of Birdcage Manor: Vol 3, ch. 14

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January 6th, 2012

Chapter 15
Father's Style

TODAY WE'RE ONLY OPEN FOR PEOPLE WITH INVITATIONS. YOU CAN STILL COME SEE THE EXHIBIT, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW, WHEN IT'S—
I'M SORRY, BUT...
But we DO have an invitation!
Look! See?
ER. WELL, ACTUALLY—
THAT POSTCARD IS AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE EVENT AFTER IT'S OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Oh. Um...
Could you call Yuu-nii-chan, please?

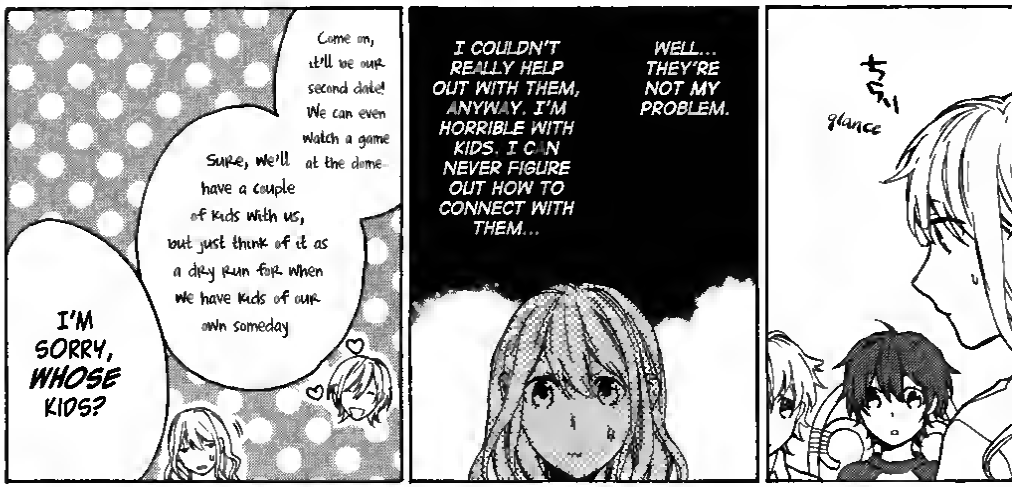
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR ASAI-SAN, YOU MIGHT BE OUT OF LUCK.
HE'S KIND OF OUT OF IT AT THE MOMENT.
OH!
KIZUNA-SAN!
"YUU-NII-CHAN...?"
CREAK

!
BUT... HIYORI WAS INVITED...
I'M REALLY SORRY, MISA-CHAN.
YUKI-KUN...
THESE KIDS WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE YOUR...
HIYORI! KOKAGE!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TWO TO STAY PUT?
W... Wait, are these kids...?
Huh?
Uh...?
SORRY!

I'M... KOKA-GE.
I'm Hiyori!
YEP.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY LITTLE BROTHER, AND YUSEI'S LITTLE BROTHER. THEY'RE BOTH STARTING FOURTH GRADE THIS YEAR.
GO ON, YOU GUYS. SAY HI.
...I...
I...
I...
AW!
THEY'RE SO CUTE!
TWINGE!
I WANT TO KIDNAP THEM...!

Yuki-nii-chan, can I get a fruit parfait?
HM?
SURE, BUT YOU HAVE TO SPLIT IT WITH KOKAGE.
THEY MIGHT HAVE IF YOU ACTUALLY HAD A PHONE.
HUH. NOBODY CALLED ME...
YEAH. DAD GIVES ME A CALL AND HE'S LIKE,
"I THINK HIYORI AND KOKAGE MADE A BREAK FOR YOUR PLACE," SO HE WANTED US TO KEEP AN EYE ON 'EM FOR A WHILE.
WEE!
I want anmitsu!
No way! He only said we could get a parfait!
WAAH!
SO ANYWAY, BOTH OUR DADS HAVE WORK TODAY, SO THEY SAID THEY'D BE OVER TOMORROW TO PICK THEM UP.
Aquarium! Aquarium!
YOU CAN SKIP OUT EARLY, CAN'T YOU? IT'S NOT LIKE THEY NEED YOU THERE ALL DAY.
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE EXPECTING ME TO COME, TOO. I'M BOOKED SOLID FOR THE PUBLIC EXHIBITION TOMORROW.
Dome! Dome!
I DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT, REMEMBER? I'M PARKING MY ASS IN BED UNTIL NOON, AND I'M GOING TO THE GALLERY AS SOON AS I GET UP
POKE
わさっ
AH...
YEAH, SURE.
HIYORI WANTS TO GO TO THE DOME TOMORROW!
I WAHNA GO TO THE AQUARIUM!

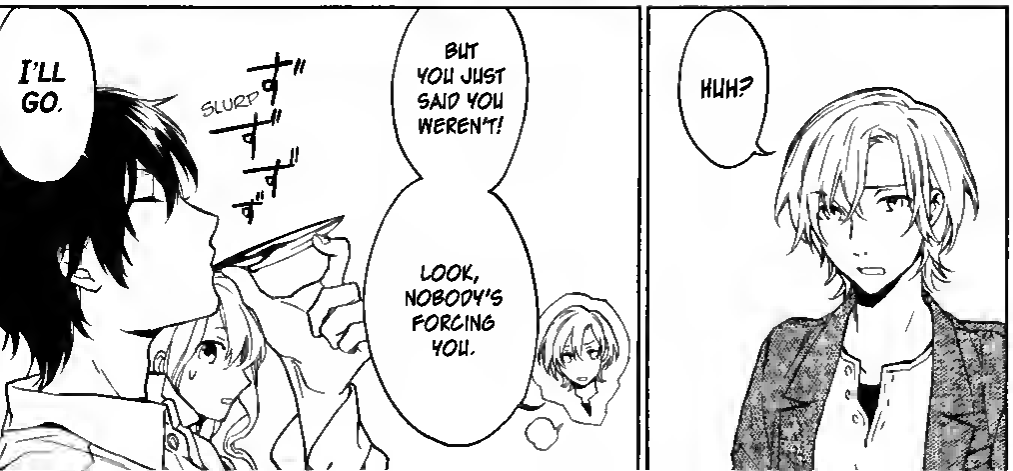
ME?
HOW ABOUT YOU, KIZUNA? YOU WANNA COME WITH?
IT'S OKAY, HIYORI. YOU DON'T WANT TO HANG OUT WITH YUSEI, ANYWAY.
AWW!
COME WITH US, YUU-NII-CHAN!
ASAI-SAN'S AND YUKI'S LITTLE BROTHERS. HUH IT'S GOING TO DRIVE ME UP A WALL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH IS WHICH.....


I'M SORRY, WHOSE KIDS?
Sure, we'll have a couple of kids with us, but just think of it as a dry run for when we have kids of our own someday
Come on, it'll be our second date! We can even watch a game at the dome
I COULDN'T REALLY HELP OUT WITH THEM, ANYWAY. I'M HORRIBLE WITH KIDS. I CAN NEVER FIGURE OUT HOW TO CONNECT WITH THEM...
WELL... THEY'RE NOT MY PROBLEM.
glance

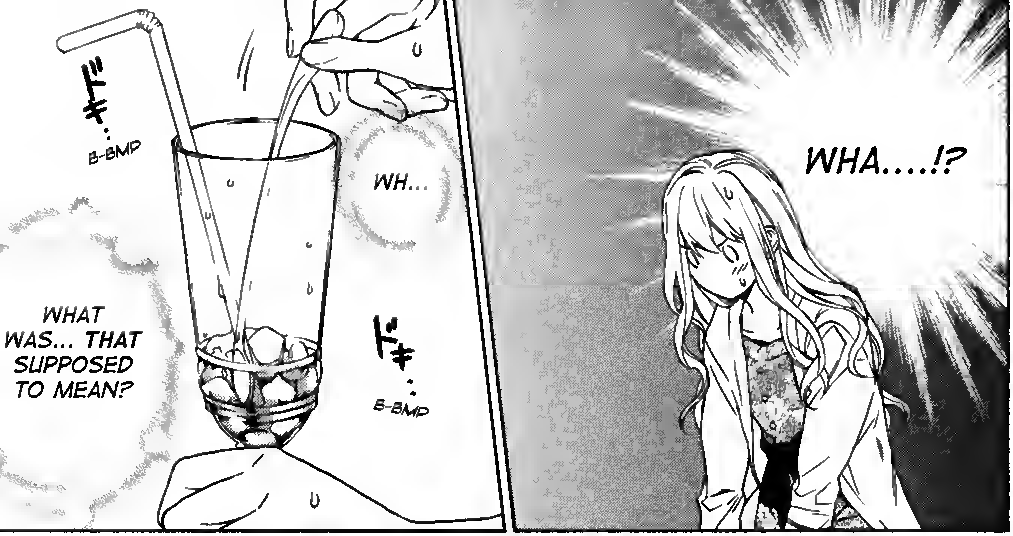
...DROP DEAD.
You pervert.
CLATTER
ON THE OTHER HAND...
I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HELP YOU PRACTICE THE ART OF MAKING CHILDREN, IF YOU'RE READY TO TAKE THAT STEP, KIZUNA. WHAT DO YOU SAY? WANNA TAKE THE PLUNGE?

CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
CLINK

I'M GOING

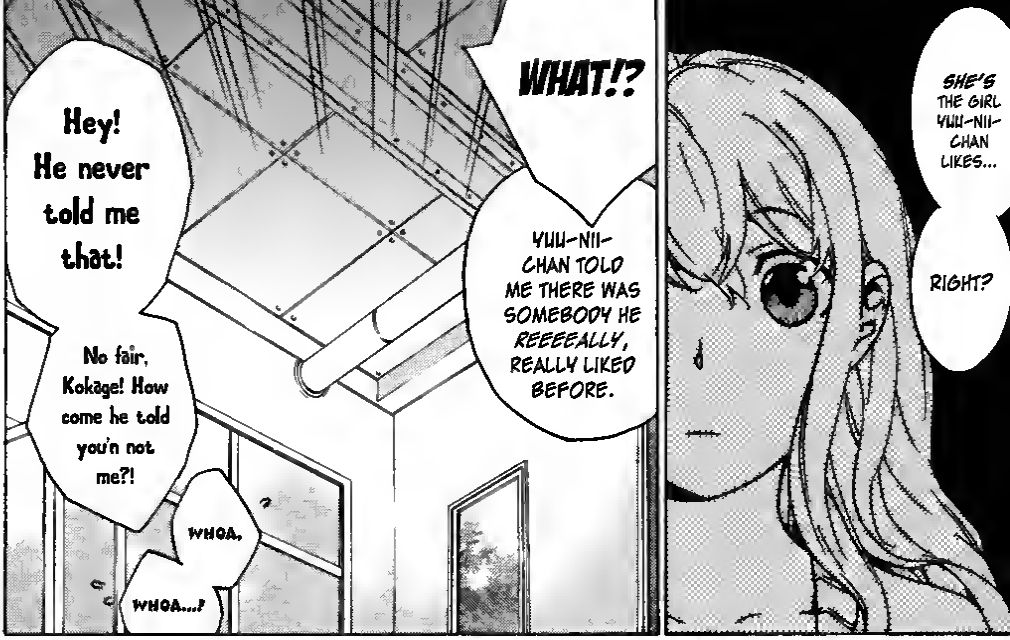

I'LL GO.
SLURP
BUT YOU JUST SAID YOU WEREN'T!
LOOK, NOBODY'S FORCING YOU.
HUH?

THEN WHY SHOULD I?
mutter
ぶつ
ぶつ
AH...
...SELF-CENTERED JERK.
YOU KNOW, I THINK I'LL PA-
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING,

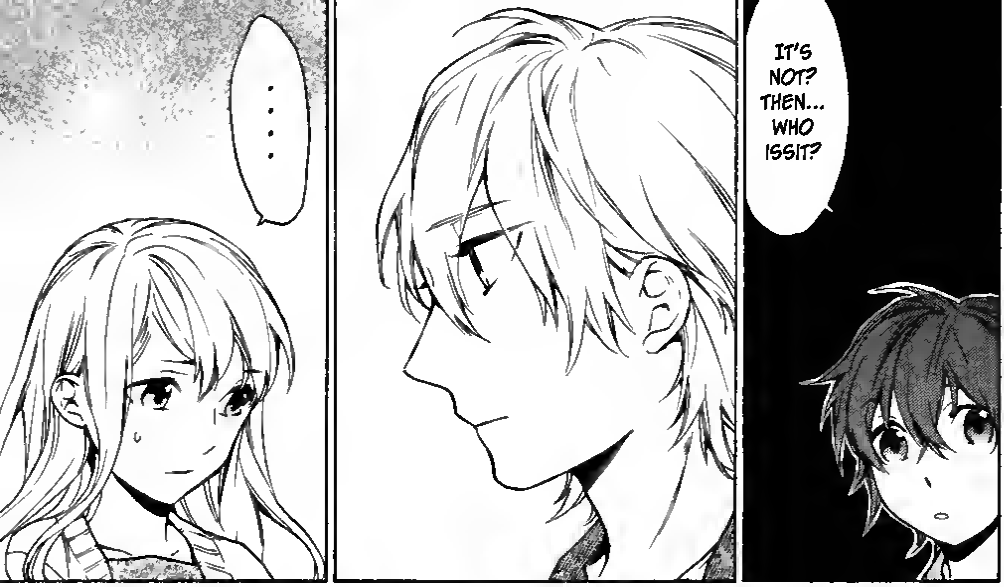

B-BMP
WH...
WHAT WAS... THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
B-BMP
WHA....!?

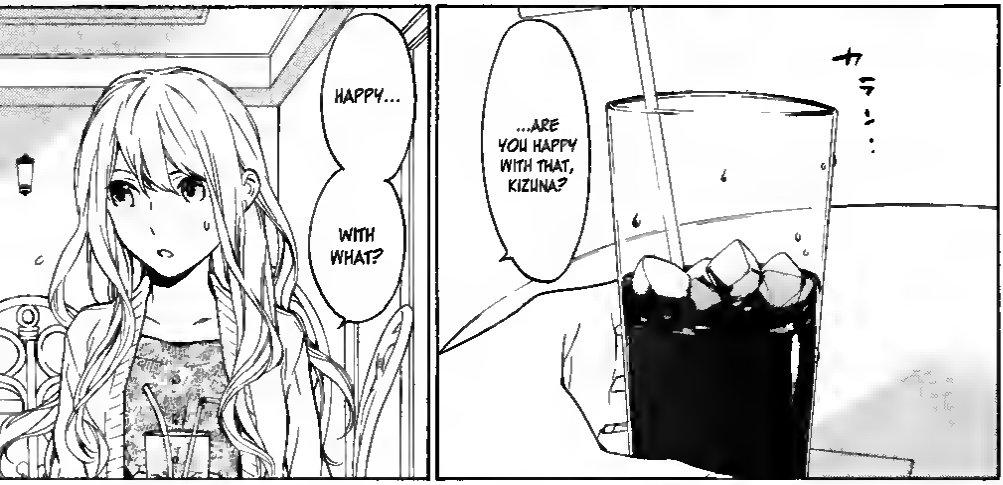
SKREE
...I'M GONNA PICK UP SOME SMOKES.
.....

ER...
STAAAARE


WHAT!?
YUU-NII-CHAN TOLD ME THERE WAS SOMEBODY HE REEEEALLY, REALLY LIKED BEFORE.
Hey! He never told me that!
No fair, Kokage! How come he told you'n not me?!
WHOA,
WHOA...?
SHE'S THE GIRL YUU-NII-CHAN LIKES...
RIGHT?

IT'S NOT HER.
YUU-CHAN'S IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
Wait, wait! Asai-san and I...
We aren't...
NEENER
NEENER
'CAUSE YOU CAN'T KEEP A SECRET, HIYORI.
Can too!


. . . .
IT'S NOT? THEN... WHO ISSIT?

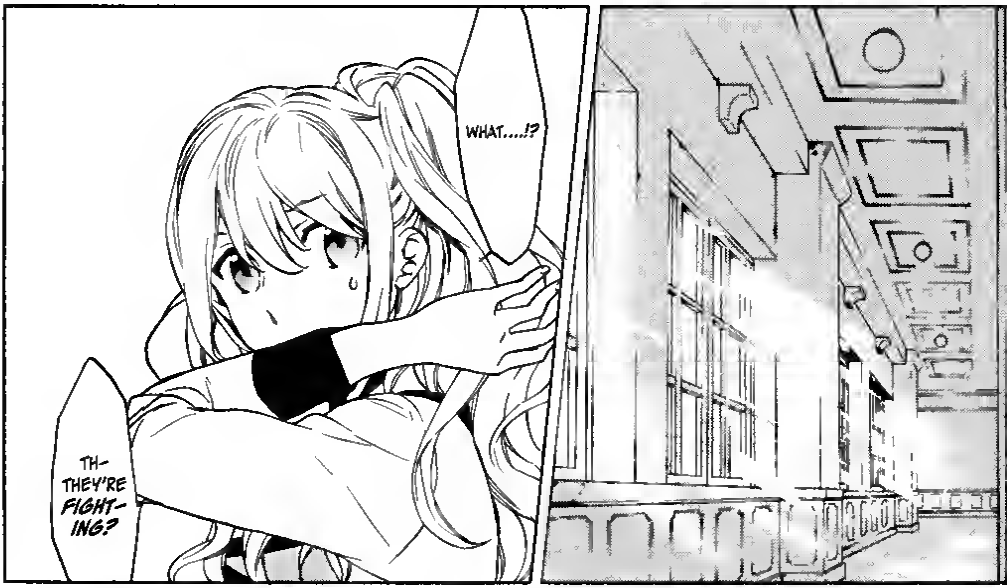

HAPPY...
WITH WHAT?
...ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THAT, KIZUNA?
カラン…

BEING MINAKO TWO-POINT-OH.

I... I AM NOT!
SURE, HE'S WARMED UP TO YOU, WHICH IS GREAT AND ALL,
BUT HE ONLY SEES YOU AS THE "NEXT" MINAKO, AND YOU KNOW THAT AS WELL AS I DO.
THE KIZUNA I KNOW WOULDN'T SETTLE FOR THAT,
MUCH LESS ACT LIKE SHE'S ON CLOUD NINE ABOUT IT.
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, KIZUNA.
THAT YOU WOULD MAKE HIM ACCEPT YOU.
THAT YOU WOULD MAKE HIM LOOK ONLY TO YOU AS THE ONE HE WANTED TO PAINT. NOT MINAKO.
I VOW TO MAKE THE PAINTER, ASAI YUSEI...
WANT TO PAINT ME!
I KNOW WHAT I SAID.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN.
.....

...WELL...
IF YOU SAY SO...
I'VE ALREADY FIGURED IT OUT FOR MYSELF...
WHEN IT HAPPENS...
I CAN'T STOP IT FROM MAKING ME HAPPY.
BUT...
AND THE POSSESSIVE WAY HE LIKES TO TALK SOMETIMES AREN'T REALLY ANYTHING MORE THAN A WHIM
THOSE BRIEF GLIMPSES OF KINDNESS,

STUPID...
THAT'S WHAT I AM.

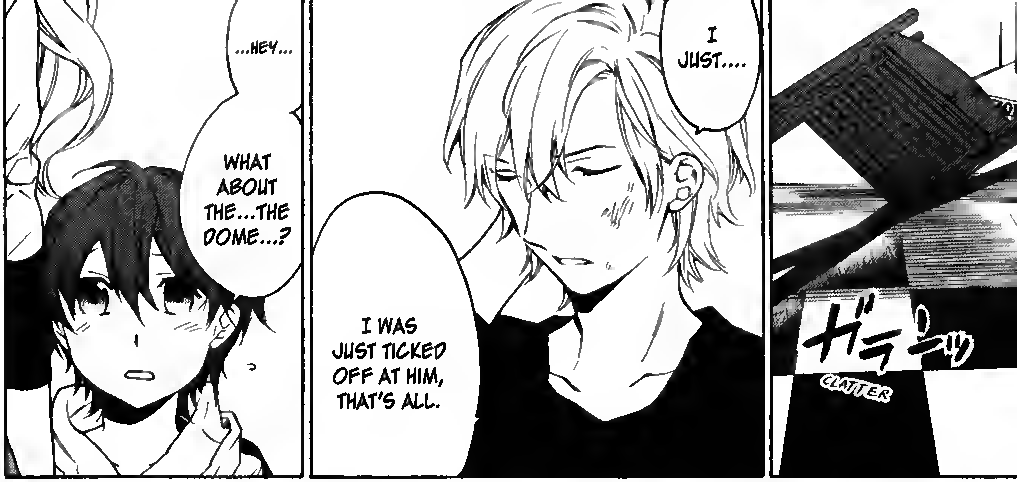

WHAT....!?
TH-THEY'RE FIGHT-ING?

ASAI-SAN!
BURST
YUKI?
WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?
C'mon! You gotta hurry!
I DUNNO WHAT HAPPENED.
YUKI-NII-CHAN GOT REALLY, REALLY MAD, AND THEN-!

WHAT THE HELL!
WHAT PART OF THIS ARE YOU SO PISSED OFF ABOUT!?
CRASH
!
JUST BECAUSE YOUR LITTLE SHOW DIDN'T BOMB, YOU'RE STRUTTING AROUND EXPECTING EVERYONE TO TREAT YOU LIKE YOU'RE SUDDENLY HOT SHIT!
WELL, WHERE THE HELL DO I START!?
Yuki Hey!
YOU COULDA FOOLED ME.
YOUR ONE-MAN-SHOW GOES OFF WITHOUT A HITCH, AND I HEAR YOUR PARTY WAS A HIT, TOO...
YOU'RE THE CREME DE LA CREME NOW, AREN'T YOU "SENSEI"?
SO I'M ACTING LIKE I'M HOT SHIT NOW?
...THE HELL I AM.
SO YOU'VE FINALLY GOT THE CHANCE TO THROW AROUND ALL THOSE PAINTINGS OF MINAKO YOU'VE BEEN HOARDING... YOU WOULD BE PROUD OF YOURSELF, WOULDN'T YOU?
.....!
HELL, YOU'RE SO HIGH ON THIS, YOU'RE EVEN TREATING KIZUNA WITH A SHRED OF DECENCY, AND FOR YOU THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING.

swing
grab
!
Asa-
sa...
Yuki!!
Hey!
grab
HEY!
Both
of you!
Cut it
out,
NOW!

huff
huff
WHAT KIND OF ADULT STARTS BRAWLING IN FRONT OF A COUPLE OF CHILDREN?
YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES!
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO STARTED IT.
AND YUKI,
DON'T TRY TO DRAG MY NAME INTO YOUR FIGHTS.
IF I'VE GOT A PROBLEM, I'LL TAKE IT UP WITH ASAI-SAN MYSELF.


...HEY...
WHAT ABOUT THE...THE DOME...?
I JUST....
I WAS JUST TICKED OFF AT HIM, THAT'S ALL.
ガラ
CLATTER

SHUT UP.
WE'RE NOT GOING.
jump!
ぴくっ

OH...
sniff
sniffle
sniff
うぅ
whimper
Aw
QUIT PMSING, YUSEI.

KLAK
KLAK
SHFF
YUKI...
YUU-NII-CHAN...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME? WE'RE NOT GOING.
NOW GET OUT OF MY ROOM.
SLAM
CREAK
.....
Sha a a

THIS IS WHY... I'M NO GOOD WITH KIDS...
sniff
sniff
IT'S OKAY, KOKAGE. DON'T CRY. THEY'RE NOT MAD AT US.
sob sob
THEY'RE MAD AT US...
IN A CHILD'S MIND, AN ADULT CAN SAY ANYTHING AT ALL. EVEN THE MOST INNOCUOUS, OFF-HANDED COMMENT, AND THEY'LL BE HURT LIKE IT WAS MEANT AS TRUTH
IF YOU DON'T SHUT THE FUCK UP, I'LL KILL YOU!
SO NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE SCREAMED AT ME, NO MATTER HOW TERRIFIED I WAS,
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ENDURE SILENTLY, WITHOUT QUESTION.
...KILL THIS SHIT ONE MORE TIME AND I'LL...
...NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES DO I...
THERE WAS ONLY EVER ONE ADULT AROUND, AND HE WAS IT.
BUT... THAT WAS WHAT I HAD TO LIVE WITH. I HAD NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO.
I WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED A MINUTE IF I WAS DUMPED OUT ONTO THE STREETS.

GLARE
キッ?
TELL HIYORI AND KOKAGE YOU'RE SORRY. NOW!
BOTH OF YOU, APOLOGIZE.
SILENCE
...BUT...
ちらっ... glance

SHOVE
IF YOU WANT TO START UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF, THEN BY ALL MEANS, BE MY GUEST.
ONLY THIS TIME, IT'S ON MY TERMS. YOU'VE GOT YOUR CHOICE BETWEEN A TWO-BY-FOUR OR AN IRON PIPE.
WHICH IS IT GONNA BE, HUH? C'MON, TAKE YOUR PICK!
Whoa... Kizuna...
That's an easel leg.

YUKI'S RIGHT, ASAI-SAN. YOU ARE MOODY.
FIRST YOU TELL THE KIDS YOU AREN'T GOING SOMEWHERE, THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU ARE?
WHAT KIND OF SCUMBAG LOSER YANKS A COUPLE OF KIDS AROUND JUST BECAUSE HE CAN'T MAKE UP HIS OWN MIND?

LIKE I SAID... YOSHIOKI STARTED IT, NOT ME...
YOU SHUT YOUR MOUTH.

BOTH OF YOU NEED TO START SERIOUSLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT YOUR LITTLE BROTHERS WILL BELIEVE ANY WORD THAT COMES OUT OF YOUR MOUTHS.
THEY IDOLIZE YOU, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT--
SO NOW IT'S TIME FOR BOTH OF YOU TO MAN UP AND START SHOWING THEM THAT FAITH ISN'T MISPLACED.

...SORRY...
ぽあっ
BEAM
Mmm...
Fin...
YOU'RE...
YOU'RE NOT GONNA FIGHT ANYMORE, RIGHT...?
YAY! C'MON, LET'S GO TO THE DOME, RIGHT NOW! RIGHT NOW!
Er...
YEAH! WE CAN STILL GO TO THE DOME WHEN IT'S DARK OUT!
A NIGHTER, HUH... AW, SURE, WHY NOT!

phew
C'mon, c'mon!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. I'M GONNA GRAB MY WALLET.

第15話 END

HM?
...YOU KNOW,
YOU'RE SOMETHIN' ELSE.

The Sleepy Residents of Birdcage Manor Vol 3, ch. 15

Brought to you by Turtle Paradise Scanlations @ http://www.turtle-paradise.net/
March 18th, 2012

Chapter 16
Home; The Reasons We Run, and What it Means To Stay (I)

ETOH,
LET'S GO SOME-WHERE.

I-
I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T WEAR PANTS, RIGHT? A SKIRT WOULD LOOK NICER, RIGHT?
SLAM
SLAM
ASAI-SAN PROPOSED SOMETHING SO FLABBERGASTING THAT PART OF ME WAS CONVINCED I WOULD WAKE UP THE NEXT MORNING IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CENTURY.

SEVERAL DAYS AFTER ASAI YUSEI'S TEN-DAY EXHIBITION,
A "PORTRAIT OF M," CLOSED AT THE AOYAMA PARK GALLERY

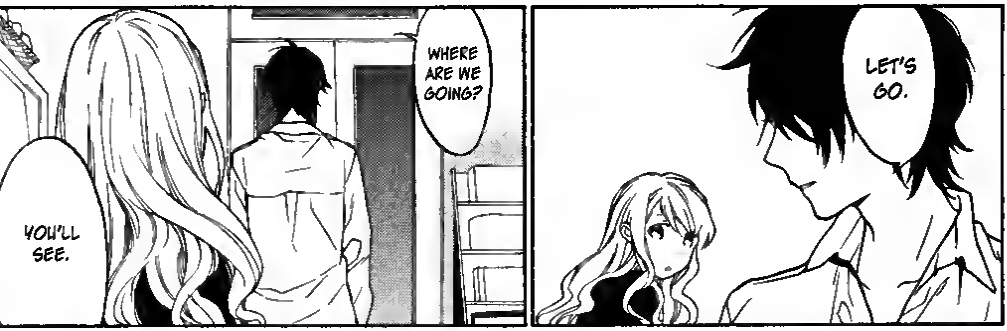
SLAM
SLAM
ALL RIGHT, THEN I'LL GO FOR A GIRLISH WHITE WITH PANTS
SHOULD I GO WITH SOMETHING WHITE INSTEAD OF STRAIGHT BLACK FOR A SIMPLE AND CLEAN VIBE?!
はっ
4H.
BUT WHAT IF WE GO TO THE ZOO OR SOMETHING? PANTS WOULD BE EASIER TO MOVE AROUND IN...
. . . . .
Klak
Klak
Klak
O... OH, FORGET IT.
SAME-OLD, SAME-OLD'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME
ASAI-SAN?

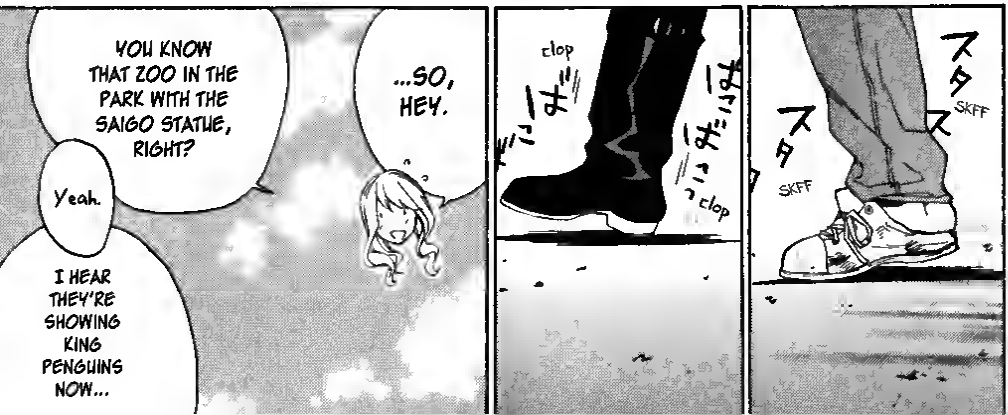
MM~
GUESS I DOZED OFF FOR A MINUTE, THERE...
..I KINDA LEFT HIM HANGING FOR HALF AN HOUR, BUT HE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW THAT
N'guh?
ASAI-SAN, I'M READY TO GO.

ALRIGHT... LET'S GET GOING...
SHUFF
WHERE TO?

YOU'LL SEE.
YOU'RE ALL SET. WE'LL HAVE YOUR ITEMS SHIPPED TO YOUR HOME LATER IN THE DAY.

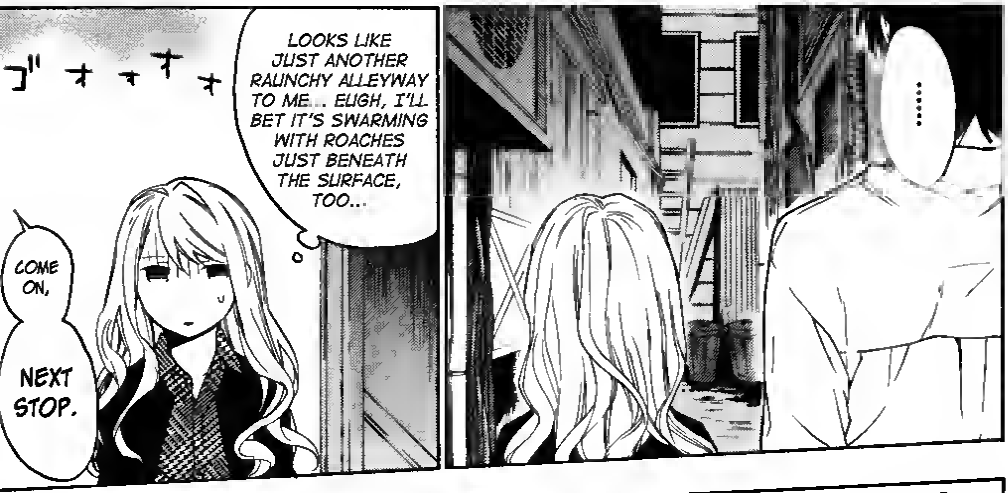
I HAVE A QUESTION.
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO PLACE AN ORDER FROM HERE AND HAVE IT SHIPPED OVERSEAS?
FROM OUTSIDE JAPAN?
LET'S SEE... THE MAKER OF THIS PARTICULAR PRODUCT IS BASED IN CANADA, SO YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO...
I WORKED MYSELF UP FOR THE PAINT STORE !?
THANKS
AND ONE MORE THING,


WHERE ARE WE GOING?
YOU'LL SEE.
LET'S GO.


YOU KNOW THAT ZOO IN THE PARK WITH THE SAIGO STATUE, RIGHT?
...SO, HEY.
Yeah.
I HEAR THEY'RE SHOWING KING PENGUINS NOW...
clop
clop
スタ
SKFF
スタ
SKFF

I WAS THINKING, YOU KNOW, MAYBE WE COULD INVITE HIYORI AND KOKAGE OVER...
AND TAKE THEM THERE SOMETIME.
YEAH, SURE..
THEY'LL PROBABLY COME OVER TO VISIT SOMETIME ANYWA-
OH.
ゴォォォォ
RMM
スッ
SWIP
HOLD ON, I WANT TO CHECK THIS OUT.
Huh?
ゴ
RMM
オ
オ
オ

じーーーっ
STARE


ゴォォォォ
LOOKS LIKE JUST ANOTHER RAUNCHY ALLEYWAY TO ME... EUGH, I'LL BET IT'S SWARMING WITH ROACHES JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE, TOO...
COME ON,
NEXT STOP.
.....

SQUISH
SKUFF
SKUFF
HEY, WAIT UP!

POUT~
I WANT A CREAM SODA.
YOU LOOK TIRED. WANT TO GET SOME-THING TO DRINK?
sulk
CREAM SODA, HUH...
MAYBE THIS'D START LOOKING MORE LIKE AN ACTUAL "DAY OUT" IF WE SAT DOWN AT A CAFE AND THROW DOWN A COUPLE OF THOSE
sulk...
HERE.
ALRIGHT. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
.....
PHEW. THAT'S COLD.

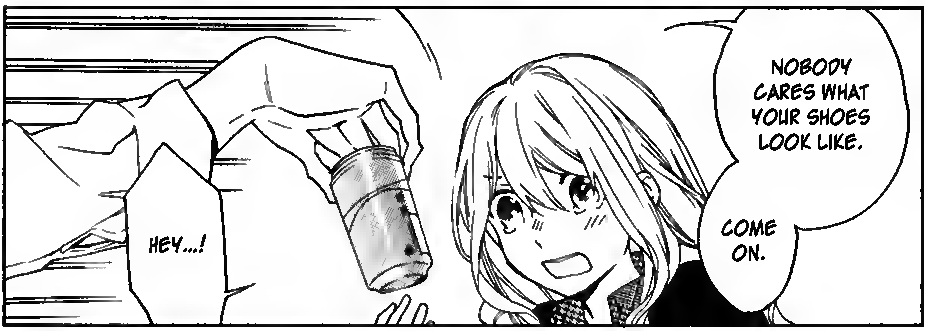
WHOM
VROOM
Ugh!

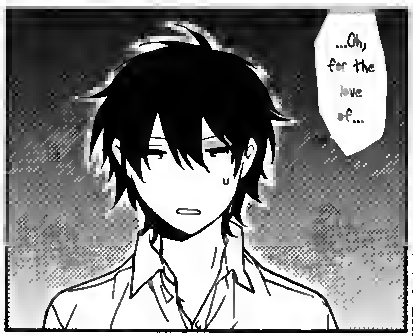
...STUPID.

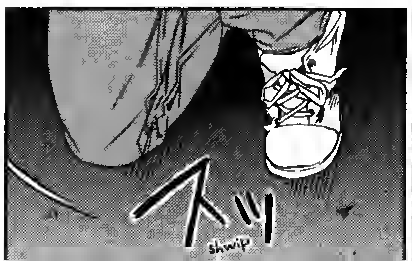
...This is just stupid!
drip
This isn't fun at all!
MY FEET HURT!
AND THIS SODA SUCKS!
IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ANY ICE CREAM IN IT!
IT'S NOT CREAM SODA WITHOUT THE ICE CREAM...
drip
Stupid.
Jerk.
You're a great, big jerk.

It's because my boots are all muddy!
You have no idea how hard it was to get these things, either! They sold out everywhere as fast as they got them in stock, and I really, really liked them!
You don't have any ice cream to go with your soda, and you're making yourself mad enough to cry about it?
It- It's not just the ice cream!
But today was supposed to be-
So go shove them in a shrine and worship them, or something. You'd be better off for it.
If they're that important to you, then why would you wear them anywhere in the first place?
ボッ
TODAY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE...
I MEAN, YOU SAID, "LET'S GO SOMEWHERE."
SO I THOUGHT, MAYBE...
...I'M GOING HOME...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO TRICK MYSELF INTO THINKING THIS WOULD LEAD INTO SOMETHING. I'M SO WEIRD.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M CRYING OVER SOMETHING THIS STUPID
?

I SAID I WANTED YOU TO COME WITH ME.
I JUST HAD SOME ERRANDS I NEEDED TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST. I'M DONE WITH THAT NOW, SO LET'S GO.
I'M GOING HOME.
I CAN'T GO ANY-WHERE WITH MY SHOES LOOKING LIKE THIS!


NOBODY CARES WHAT YOUR SHOES LOOK LIKE.
COME ON.
HEY...!


...Oh, for the love of...

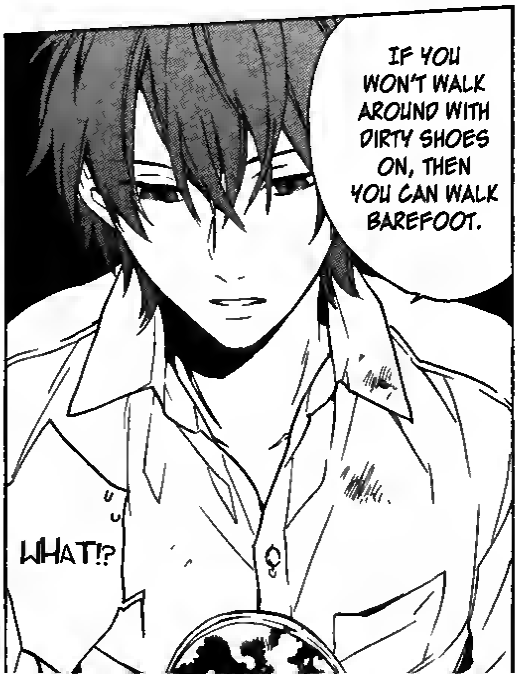

shwip

I SAID I DON'T WANT TO!

HEY-!

CUT IT OUT
WH-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

KNOCK IT-
AAAGH!
SERI-OUSLY, STOP!


IF YOU WON'T WALK AROUND WITH DIRTY SHOES ON, THEN YOU CAN WALK BAREFOOT.
WHAT!?

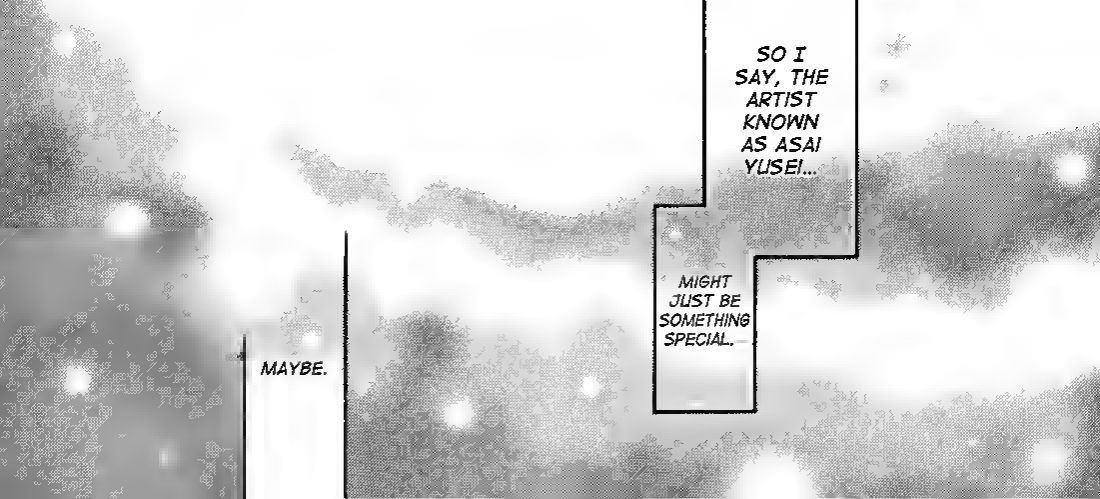
SHWIP

LET'S GO.
じろ
STARE
じろ
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT'S MY PROBLEM !?
ぺた
PAT
YOU'LL BE FINE. THE GROUND ISN'T SCORCHING HOT, OR ANYTHING.
……
WAIT!
GIVE ME BACK MY SHOES!
NOW ARE WE HAVING FUN?
ひた
pat
ひた
pat

flow
UH, NO?
I FELT THE BREEZE PASS OVER MY BARE FEET,
ALMOST AS THOUGH THE ASPHALT HAD A BREATH OF ITS OWN!
IT WAS A FEELING I'D NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE
AS WE WALKED ALONG THE SIDEWALK, A STRANGE FEELING BEGAN TO COME OVER ME.
BUT THEN,

IN AN ALLEYWAY, YOU MIGHT NOT SEE ANYTHING SPECIAL.
JUST TURBINES PUMPING HOT AIR OUT INTO THE ATMOSPHERE; PUDDLES OF WATER LONG-SINCED TRANSFORMED INTO PUDDLES OF SLUDGE;
AND PATTERNS OF PIPING LAZILY CRAWLING UP THE WALLS...
BUT COLLECTIVELY, THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT GIVE EACH ALLEY ITS OWN, DISTINCT FACE.
ASAI-SAN LOOKS AT THE WORLD WITH EACH AND EVERY SENSE AT HIS DISPOSAL CONSTANTLY ENGAGED.
AND WHEN HE PILES THEM ALL TOGETHER, THAT'S WHAT BRINGS ASAI-SAN'S ART...
THE WORLD INSIDE HIS ART, TO LIFE.

第16話 END


SO I SAY, THE ARTIST KNOWN AS ASAI YUSEI...
MIGHT JUST BE SOMETHING SPECIAL...
MAYBE.

The Sleepy Residents of Birdcage Manor Volume 3 ch 16

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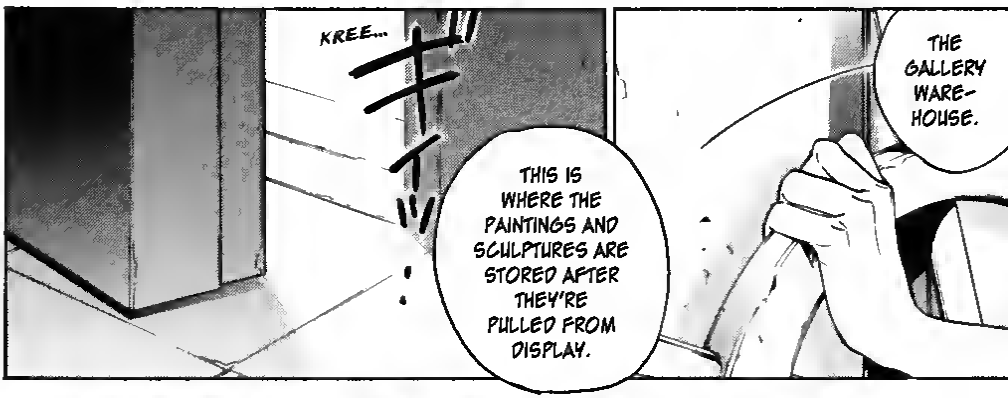
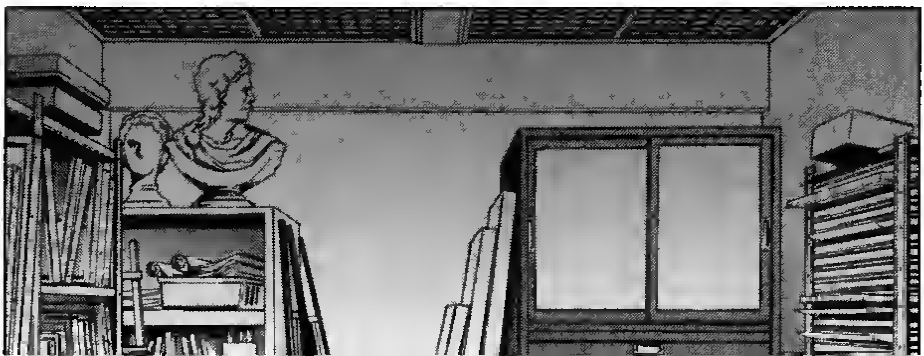
May 5th, 2012

Chapter 17
Home; The Reasons We Run, and What it Means To Stay(II)

UH...?
WHERE ARE WE?
AOYAMA GALLERY
A
THE GALLERY...?


KREE...
THIS IS WHERE THE PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURES ARE STORED AFTER THEY'RE PULLED FROM DISPLAY.
THE GALLERY WARE-HOUSE.



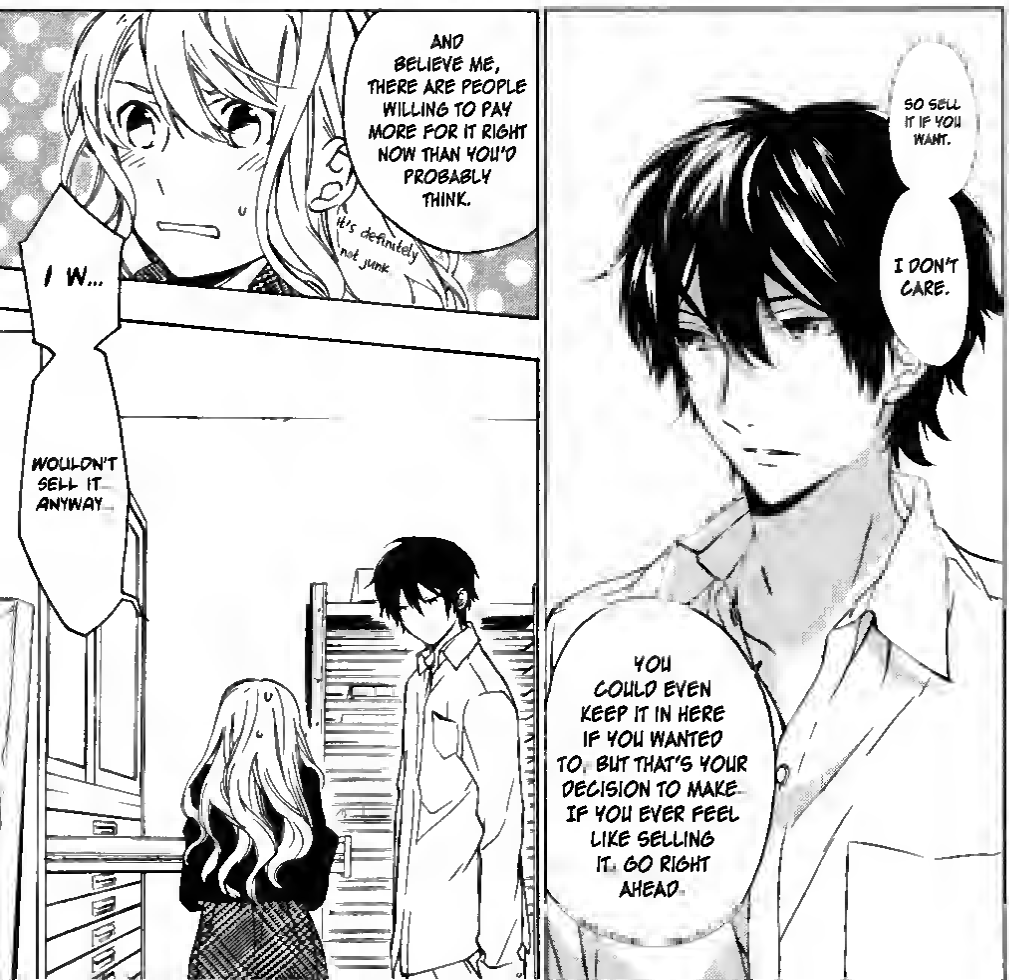
.....
shut
KREE
KREE
THERE YOU ARE.
IT SMELLS THE SAME AS ASAI-SAN'S ATELIER...
OH. THIS IS...

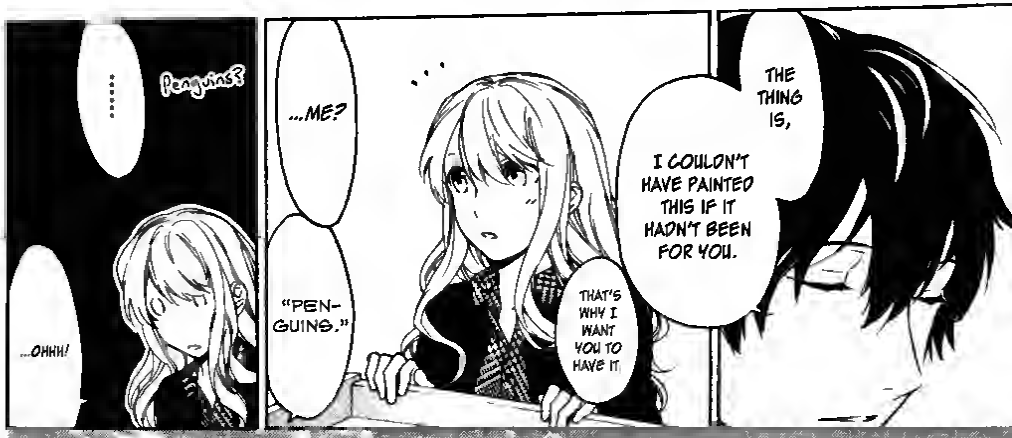
I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT, ETOH.
...HUH?
OH, SURE. COOL. THA...

YOU WHAT!?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU WANT ME TO--!?
WHY?
OH GOD! YOU'RE BROKE, AREN'T YOU? IS THIS THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE LEFT TO PAY ME WITH!?
WAIT... LET ME THINK. I'VE ALREADY BEEN PAID.
I DON'T GET IT. WHY?
.....

IT MIGHT BE A GLORIFIED PIECE OF JUNK NOW, BUT I HAVE NO RESERVATIONS ABOUT SELLING IT OFF IF IT GOES UP IN VALUE LATER DOWN THE ROAD!
AND DON'T COME CRYING TO ME IF I USE IT AS A BATHMAT IF IT ENDS UP BEING WORTHLESS, EITHER!
JUST DON'T EXPECT ME TO GIVE IT BACK IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, ALL RIGHT?
FINE. IF YOU DON'T WANT IT...
WAIT!
Grab
I NEVER SAID I DIDN'T WANT IT!


AND BELIEVE ME, THERE ARE PEOPLE WILLING TO PAY MORE FOR IT RIGHT NOW THAN YOU'D PROBABLY THINK.
It's definitely not junk
I W...
WOULDN'T SELL IT ANYWAY...
SO SELL IT IF YOU WANT.
I DON'T CARE.
YOU COULD EVEN KEEP IT IN HERE IF YOU WANTED TO, BUT THAT'S YOUR DECISION TO MAKE. IF YOU EVER FEEL LIKE SELLING IT, GO RIGHT AHEAD.


THE THING IS,
I COULDN'T HAVE PAINTED THIS IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU.
THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT
...ME?
"PEN-GUINS."
.....
Penguins?
...OHHH!

"Hey, Asai-san. Listen to this...!"

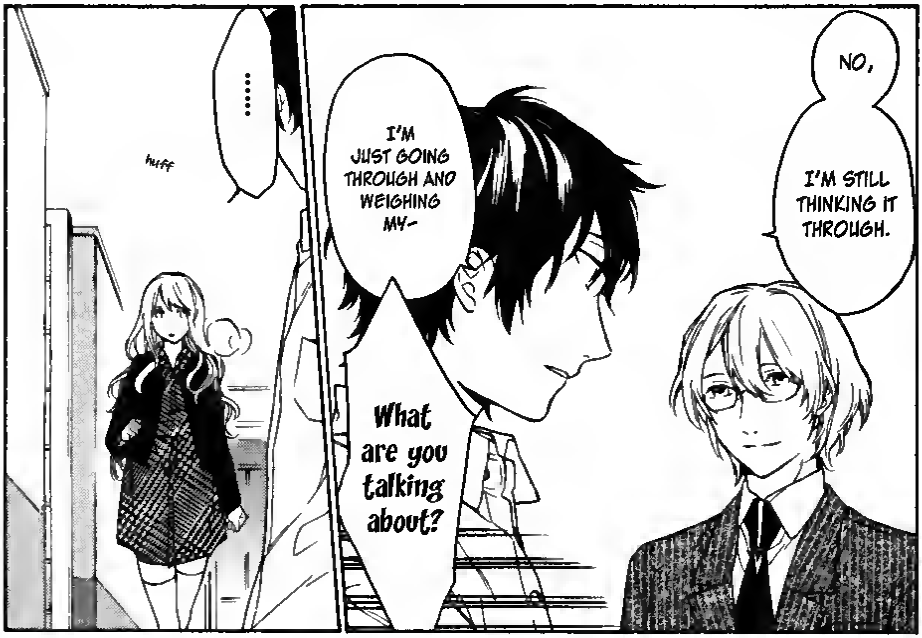
I saw this documentary on penguins on TV ages ago.
It said that in the middle of a blizzard, they all huddle together for warmth and the mothers and fathers take turns protecting their eggs.
And they keep trading up all through winter, all the way up until spring, for months.
They literally risk their lives protecting their unborn young
Isn't that cool?
...Hm...
HE REMEMBERED MY STORY.. AND USED IT FOR INSPIRATION...
ASAI-SAN USED MY STORY...
WAIT.. SO HOW DID THAT HEART-WARMING STORY . GIVE BIRTH TO THIS MONST-ROSITY?
AH.
THERE YOU ARE, ASAI-KUN.
OSAWA-SAN.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.
shut

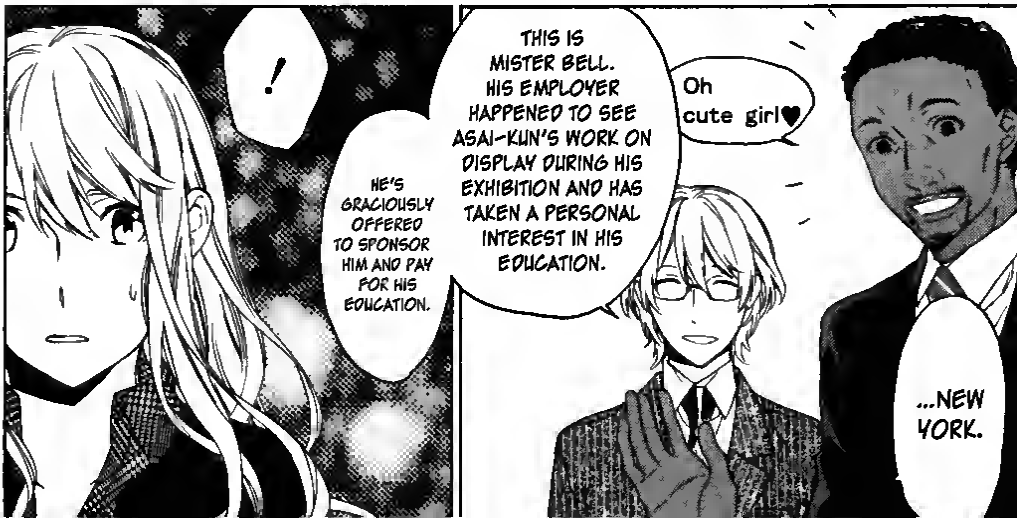
HUH?
ASAI-SAN HAS A CUSTOMER?
HE'S ALREADY HERE. WE WERE JUST WAITING ON YOU.
RIGHT THIS WAY.
CLAP
CLAP
Hahahaha hahaha!!
WHO'S HE!?
WH...
WAIT, WHAT!?
Keep pounding on him like that and you'll bust him in two!

THIS WILL BE A GREAT MOVE FOR YOU, ASAI-KUN.
ASAI-SAN IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH?
NOW I'VE SEEN IT ALL!
shock
Tomoe.

I'M SO GLAD TO HEAR...
YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO STUDY OVERSEAS.

STUDY...
OVERSEAS...?

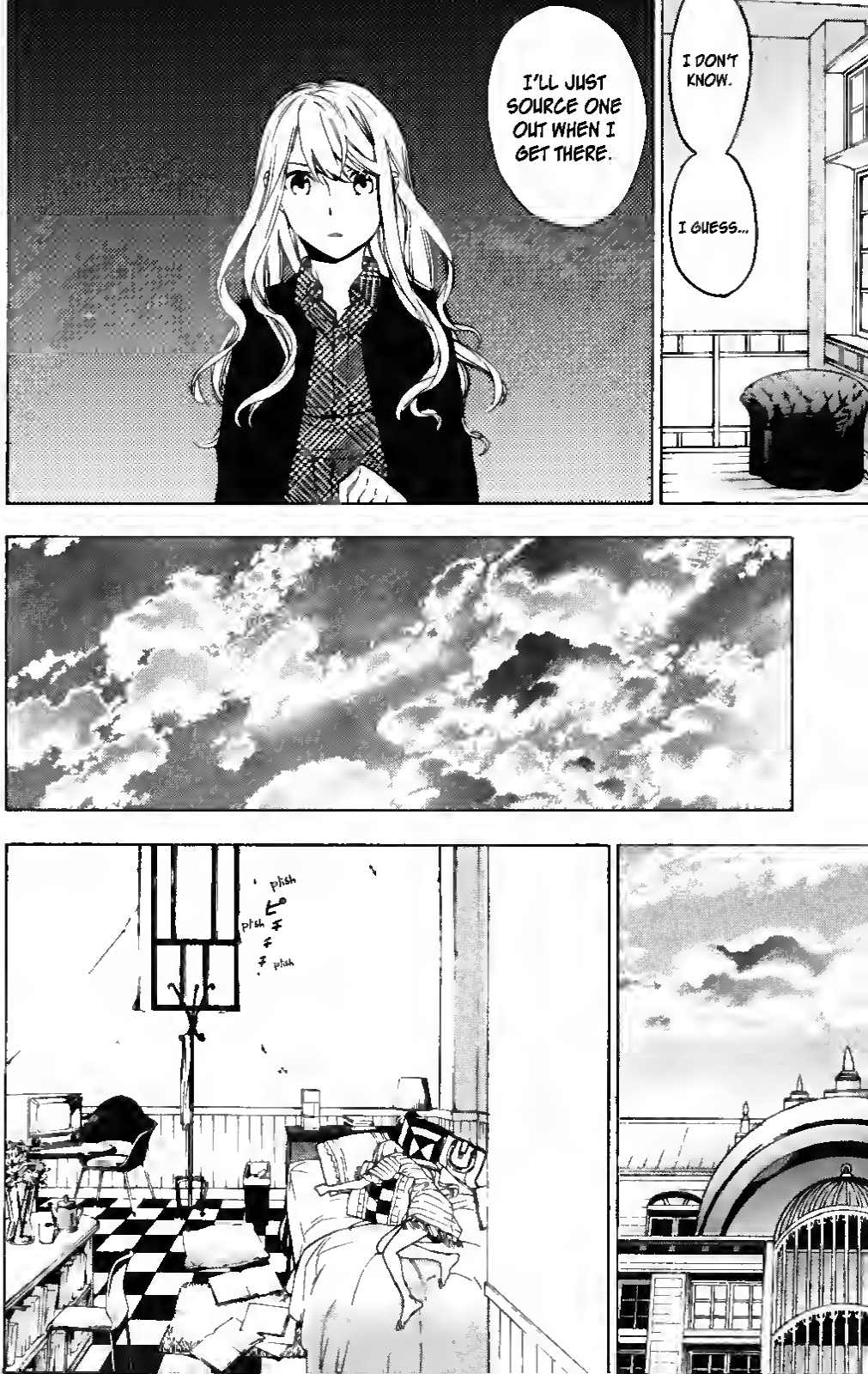

.....
huff
I'M JUST GOING THROUGH AND WEIGHING MY-
What are you talking about?
NO,
I'M STILL THINKING IT THROUGH.

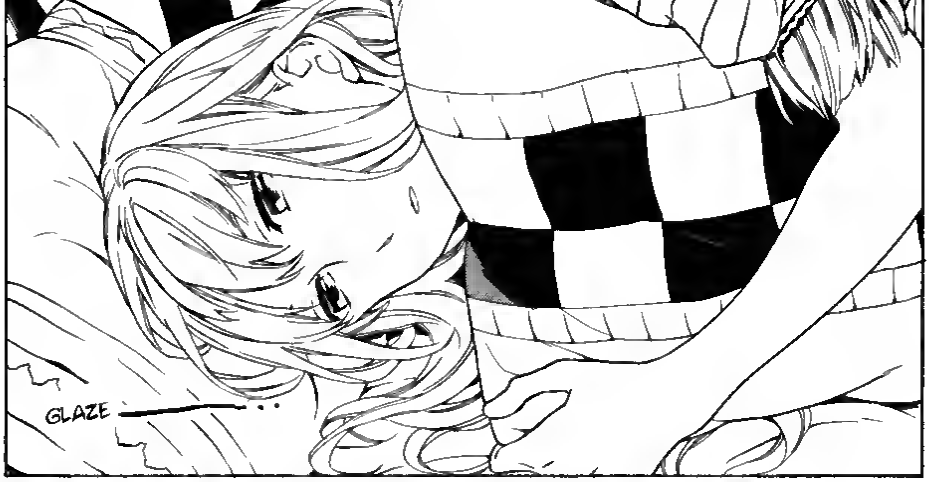

!
HE'S GRACIOUSLY OFFERED TO SPONSOR HIM AND PAY FOR HIS EDUCATION.
THIS IS MISTER BELL. HIS EMPLOYER HAPPENED TO SEE ASAI-KUN'S WORK ON DISPLAY DURING HIS EXHIBITION AND HAS TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN HIS EDUCATION.
Oh cute girl♥
...NEW YORK.

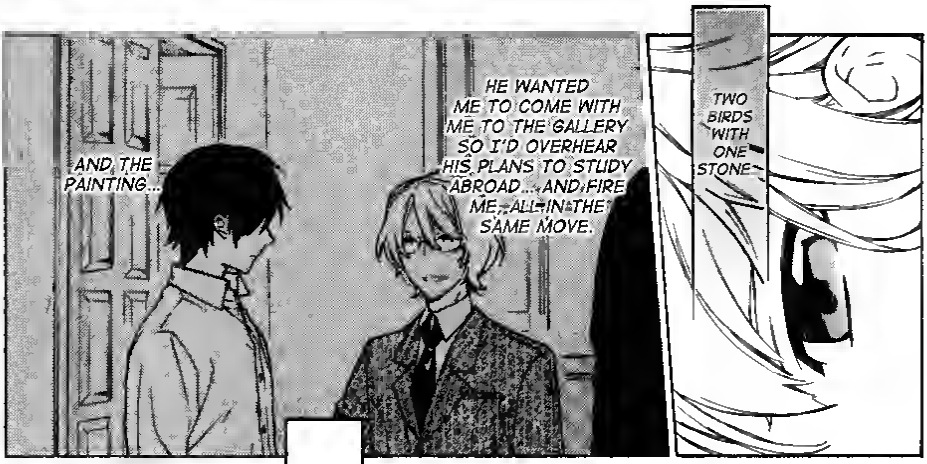
YOU...
YOU'RE NOT GOING ...ARE YOU?
ASAI-SAN...?
TMP

I'VE BEEN...
CON-SIDERING IT.
!...

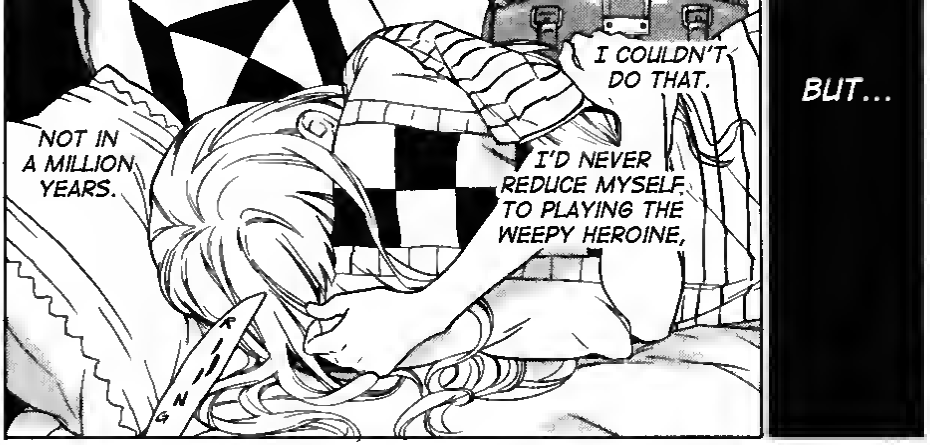
BUT IF YOU GO TO AMERICA, WHO'S GOING TO MODEL FOR YOU?
I CAN'T...
BUT...!

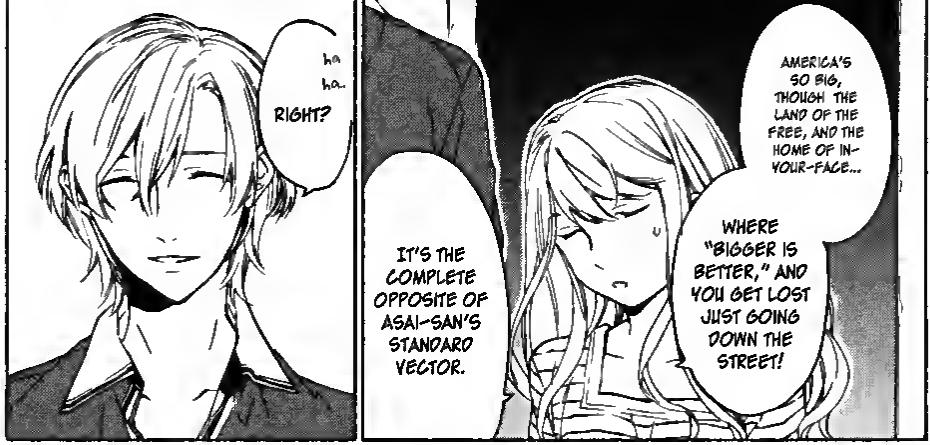

I'LL JUST SOURCE ONE OUT WHEN I GET THERE.
I DON'T KNOW.
I GUESS...
phish
phish
phish

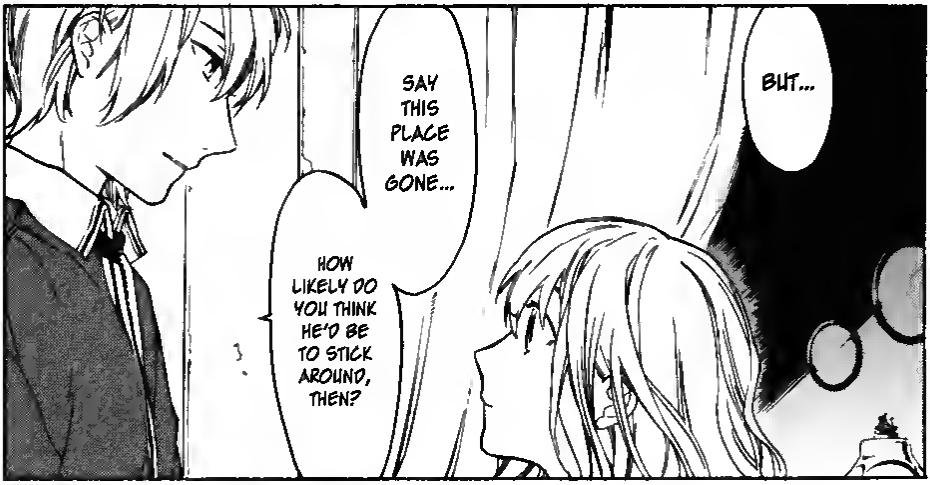

GLAZE

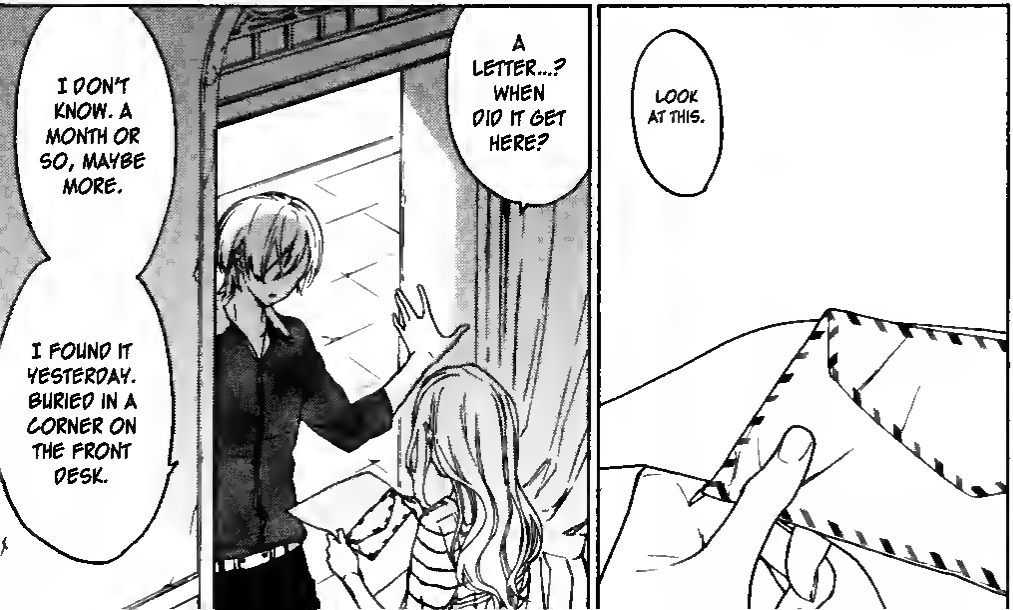

AND THE PAINTING...
HE WANTED ME TO COME WITH ME TO THE GALLERY SO I'D OVERHEAR HIS PLANS TO STUDY ABROAD...AND FIRE ME...ALL IN THE SAME MOVE.
TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.

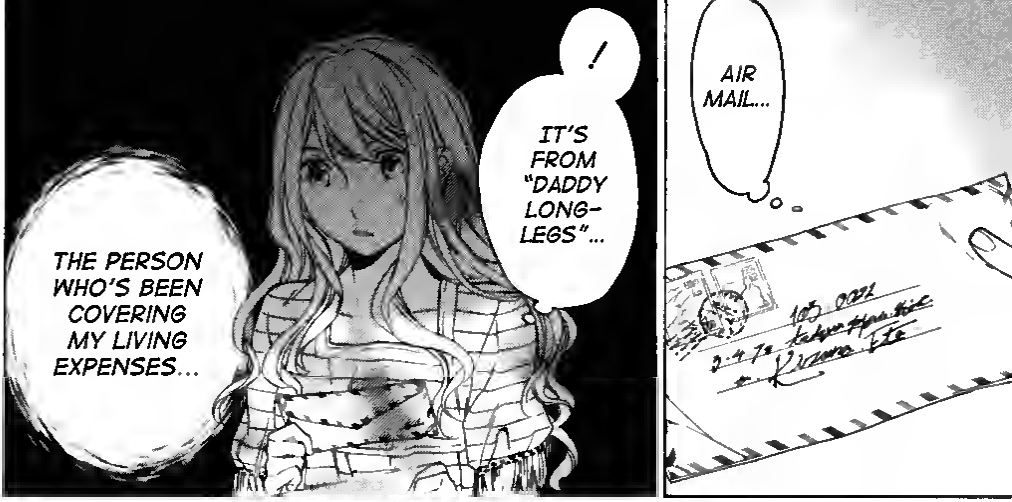
IF I HAD STARTED CRYING,
AND CLUNG TO HIM, BEGGING HIM NOT TO GO,
MAYBE ASAI- SAN WOULD HAVE CHANGED HIS MIND.
IT WAS A GLORIFIED SEVERANCE PACKAGE,
WASN'T IT?

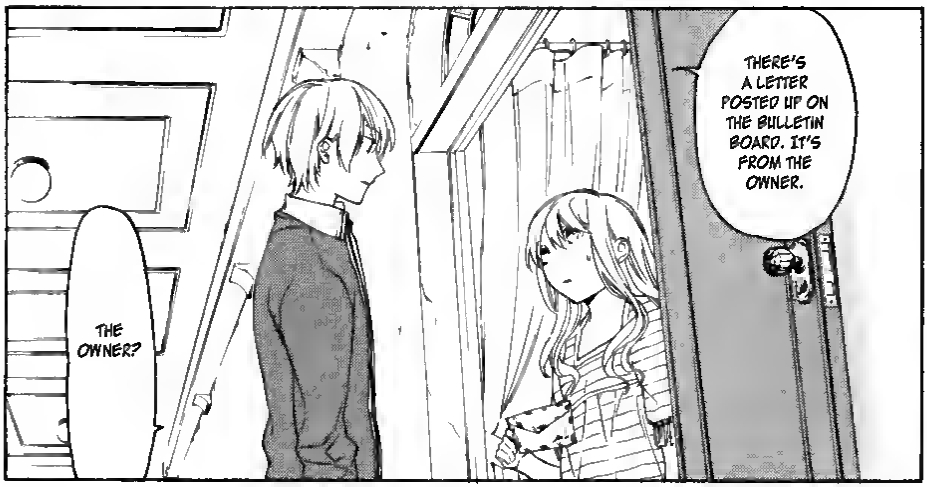

I COULDN'T DO THAT.
BUT...
NOT IN A MILLION YEARS.
I'D NEVER REDUCE MYSELF TO PLAYING THE WEEPY HEROINE,
RI-I-I-I


ha ha. RIGHT?
IT'S THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF ASAI-SAN'S STANDARD VECTOR.
AMERICA'S SO BIG, THOUGH THE LAND OF THE FREE, AND THE HOME OF IN-YOUR-FACE...
WHERE "BIGGER IS BETTER," AND YOU GET LOST JUST GOING DOWN THE STREET!


SAY THIS PLACE WAS GONE...
HOW LIKELY DO YOU THINK HE'D BE TO STICK AROUND, THEN?
BUT...

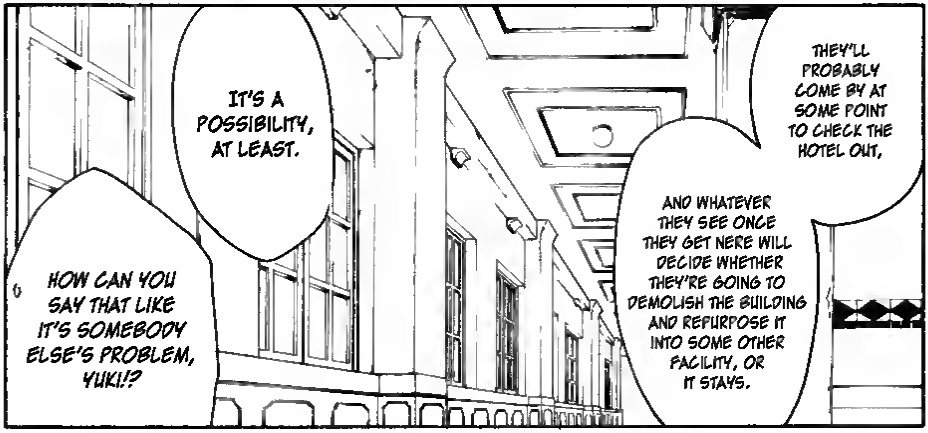

I DON'T KNOW. A MONTH OR SO, MAYBE MORE.
I FOUND IT YESTERDAY. BURIED IN A CORNER ON THE FRONT DESK.
A LETTER...? WHEN DID IT GET HERE?
LOOK AT THIS.


!
IT'S FROM "DADDY LONG-LEGS"...
THE PERSON WHO'S BEEN COVERING MY LIVING EXPENSES...
AIR MAIL...


THERE'S A LETTER POSTED UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD. IT'S FROM THE OWNER.
THE OWNER?

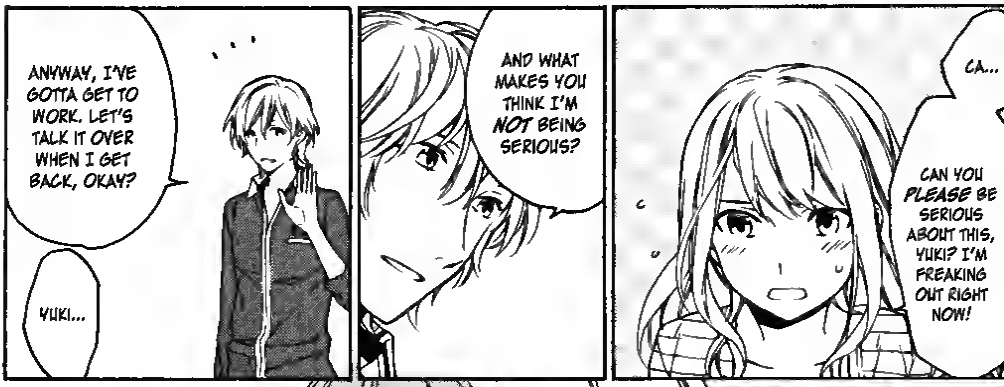
I'M JUST STARTING TO WONDER IF MAYBE...
...THIS PLACE ISN'T GOING TO BE AROUND FOR MUCH LONGER.

...WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?
ACCORDING TO THE LETTER,
SOMEONE FROM BARON CHILDBIRD'S FAMILY... WELL, THE OWNER IN PERSON, I MEAN,
IS COMING TO JAPAN PRETTY SOON.


THEY'LL PROBABLY COME BY AT SOME POINT TO CHECK THE HOTEL OUT,
AND WHATEVER THEY SEE ONCE THEY GET HERE WILL DECIDE WHETHER THEY'RE GOING TO DEMOLISH THE BUILDING AND REPURPOSE IT INTO SOME OTHER FACILITY, OR IT STAYS.
IT'S A POSSIBILITY, AT LEAST.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM, YUKI!?

I MEAN... IF THIS PLACE SUDDENLY UP AND VANISHED ONE DAY,
WHERE WOULD WE GO? WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
ME?
I'D FIND SOMEWHERE TO GO, I GUESS. I NEVER BUILT UP AN EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO THIS PLACE, ANYHOW.
BESIDES, I FIGURED I'D MOVE OUT ONCE I GRADUATED ANYWAY.

HEY.
IF THEY REALLY DO END UP TEARING THE PLACE DOWN,
WHY DON'T YOU COME LIVE WITH ME?


ANYWAY, I'VE GOTTA GET TO WORK. LET'S TALK IT OVER WHEN I GET BACK, OKAY?
YUKI...
AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M NOT BEING SERIOUS?
CA...
CAN YOU PLEASE BE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, YUKI? I'M FREAKING OUT RIGHT NOW!

第17話 END

JUST THINK IT OVER.
ALL RIGHT?

The Sleepy Residents of Birdcage Manor Volume 3 [n. f.]

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May 22nd, 2012

Chapter 18
Home:
The Reasons We Run, and
What it Means To Stay.
(III)

"IF THEY REALLY DO END UP TEARING THE PLACE DOWN,
WHY DON'T YOU COME LIVE WITH ME, KIZUNA?"
JUST THINK IT OVER.
ALL RIGHT?
YUKI, I--
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, PHONE.
YUKI-NII-CHAAAAN!
Hey...!
PEEP
HEEELLO, THIS IS-

チ
chirp
トゥ
ガ
ka-tnk
ガ
ka-tnk

キ
KREE
イ
DING-
DONG

HIYORI? KOKAGE? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
We're hungryyy.
Mommy said she couldn't get up to fix us anything.
WHAT?
Yuki-nii-chaaan...
ASAI
浅井
INOUE
井上
Santa's not gonna come give us any presents if we don't have our Santa stockings...
WAAA
I don't have any socks. Hiyori took mine!
And our Santa stockings aren't ready, either!
HIYORI'S CLOTHES ARE ALL DIRTY.
DING-DONG...
WHAT THE HELL...
...IS A SANTA STOCKING?

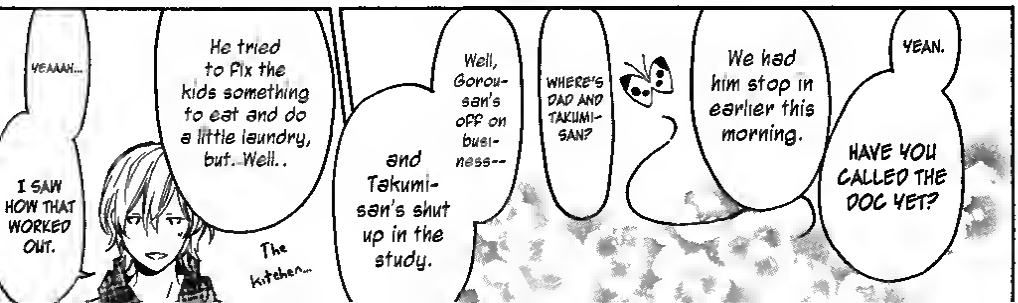
KREE...
HELLO? WEIRD.
THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED...
HOLY GOD!
UGH! WHAT DIED IN HERE? IS THAT THE GARBAGE!?
AND WHY'S THE A.C. CRANKED UP SO HIGH?!
wait...
HIYORI!
KOKAGE! WHERE ARE YOU?
YOU'RE THE GIRL, HIYORI. YOU TAKE THE PINK ONE...
HIYORI DOESN'T LIKE PINK!
I DON'T LIKE IT, EITHER!
YOU GET THE PINK ONE 'CAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL, AND I GET THE BLUE ONE 'CAUSE I'M A BOY. THAT'S THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK!
BUT I WANT BLUE!

SERIOUSLY THOUGH, ALL YOU'RE FIGHTING OVER IS THE COLOR OF THE WRAPPER.
THE PINK ONE IS STRAWBERRY CHOCOLATE, AND THE BLUE ONE IS MILK CHOCOLATE. SEE?
YUKI-NII-CHAN'S HERE!
HERE WE GO...
HIYORI STARTED IT! SHE SAID—
わっ
WAAH!
YUKI-NII-CHAN/ KOKAGE SAID...
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, I GET IT.

Chunky Cream
BEEP
BEEP
I want the milk chocolate...

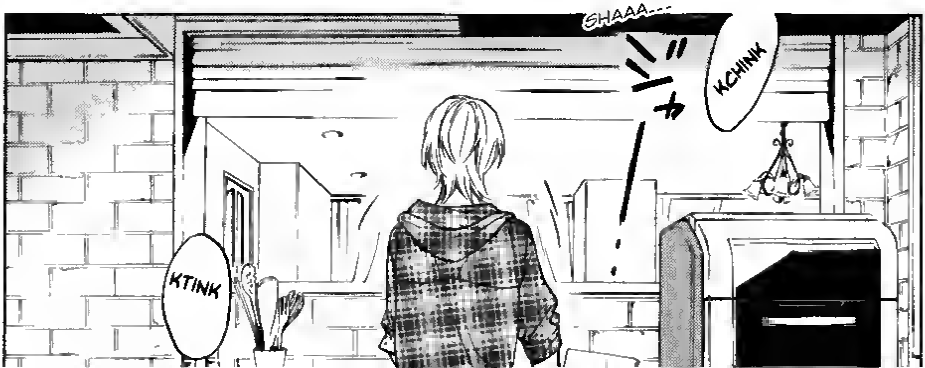
Oh, boy...

KA-CHAK
IT'S OKAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET UP. HIYORI AND KOKAGE TOLD ME YOU WERE SICK.
IT'S ME, YUKI.
YUKI-CHAN?
YUU-CHAN?
...
Oh, look. Yuki-chan's here!
How good to see you!
コホッ
koff
コホッ
koff

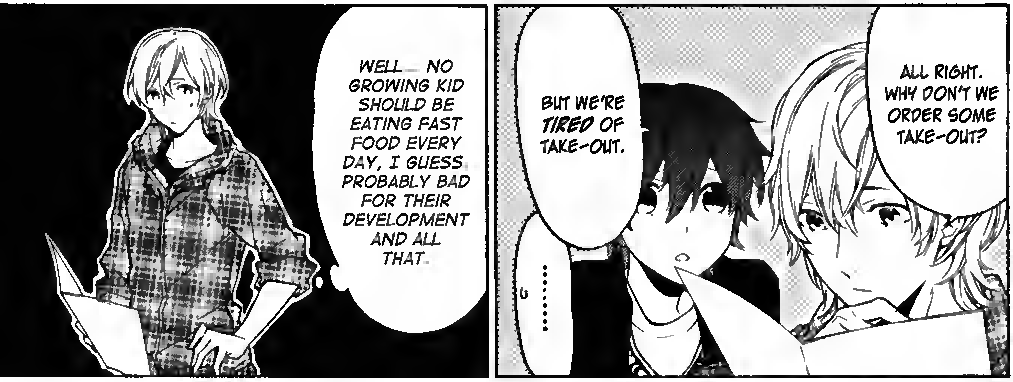

YEAH.
HAVE YOU CALLED THE DOC YET?
We had him stop in earlier this morning.
WHERE'S DAD AND TAKUMI-SAN?
Well, Gorou-san's off on buei-ness--
and Takumi-san's shut up in the study.
He tried to fix the kids something to eat and do a little laundry, but..Well..
The kitchen...
I SAW HOW THAT WORKED OUT.
YEAAAH...

Let's see... Oh!
None of the Christmas decorations are up yet, so there's that.
ALRIGHT... I'LL DIG OUT THE TREE.
And then there's
And then...
Oh! Hiyori-chan and Kokage-chan still need to have their names sewn into their stockings.
They're going to hang them on a tree at school, but Santa won't leave them any presents if their names aren't written on them
NAME TAGS GOT IT. ANYTHING ELSE?
Was there anything else that needed to be done aside from the cleaning and the laundry?

KLINK
KLINK
Take out on Thursday
Take out on Wednesday
Take out on Monday
VHUMM
VHUMM


SHAAA---
KCHINK
KTINK

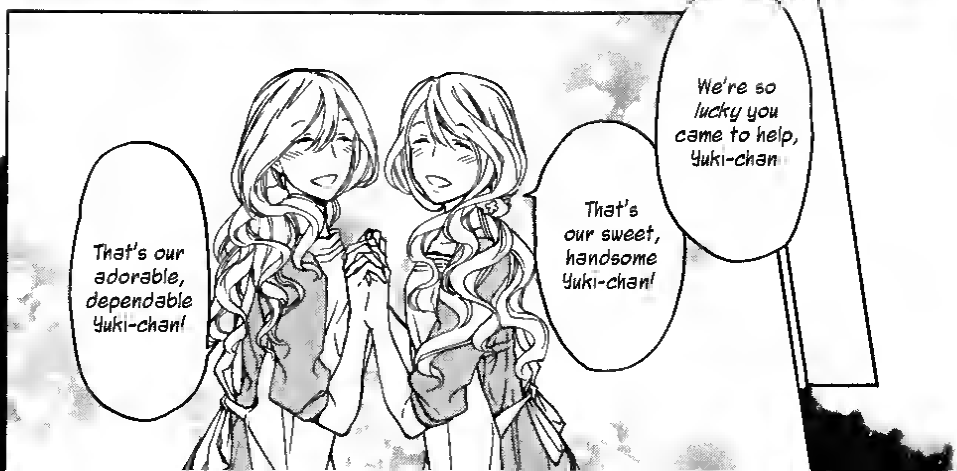
YUKI-NII-CHAN, WE'RE HUNGRYYY
WHAT'S UP, KOKAGE?
AND HIYORI...
Hungry
HUH?
HAVEN'T YOU HAD DINNER YET?
YUKI-NII-CHAN?
shaaa
SQUEE


WELL... NO GROWING KID SHOULD BE EATING FAST FOOD EVERY DAY, I GUESS. PROBABLY BAD FOR THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND ALL THAT.
BUT WE'RE *TIRED* OF TAKE-OUT.
.....
ALL RIGHT. WHY DON'T WE ORDER SOME TAKE-OUT?

GUESS I'LL SAVE THE TREE FOR LATER AND PICK UP SOME GROCERIES INSTEAD.
NO SENSE RAIDING AN EMPTY FRIDGE, EITHER...
AND MOM *WAS* SAYING SHE WANTED ICE CREAM...

DZZT
DZZT
DZZT
AH, THE WASHER'S DONE. BETTER GET THAT STUFF IN THE DRYER...
YEAH? WHAT?
Yuki-chan! Yuki-chaaan!
YUKI-CHAAAN...

YUKI-NII-CHAN, WHEN'S DINNER GONNA BE READY?
IN A BIT!
DZZT!
DZZT!
Yuki-chaaan!
We want something nice and hot after we have ice cream.
Pick up some Williamson and Magor tea from Seijo Hanai, would you? They're the only ones who have it. It's that place just past the station.


We're so lucky you came to help, Yuki-chan
That's our sweet, handsome Yuki-chan!
That's our adorable, dependable Yuki-chan!

"YUKI-CHAN"
"YUKI-CHAAAN!"
I'd be more comfortable with you there.
I'd feel more confident if you were there...
Come with me when I ask him out, okay?
Please, Yuki!
"YUKI-KUUUN!
YOU HAVE TO ENTER THE INTERDISCIPLINARY BEAUTY PAGEANT!"
"AWRIGHT, HERE'S MY MAN! LISTEN, YUKI, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEMBERS FOR TONIGHT'S MIXER
GIVE US A HAND, WOULD YA?"
"SURE, I'LL BE THERE."
"JUST WAIT IN LINE."
"NO FIGHTING NOW! KEEP IT CIVIL."
"YOU'RE A BIG, FAT, LIAR, YUKI-NII-CHAN.
YOU PROMISED WE'D GO TO THE AQUARIUM ON SUNDAY!"
"THE CROWD WOULD EAT IT UP!"
"YUKI"
"YUKI-CHAAAN"
"YUUUUKI"
"YUKI-NII-CHAN"
"YUKI"
"YUUUUKI"

Nnhah...?
jerk
Ugh...
zzz...
すう…
name
Asai Hiyori
NNN...
UURGH...!
'NOTHER BRAND-NEW DAY...

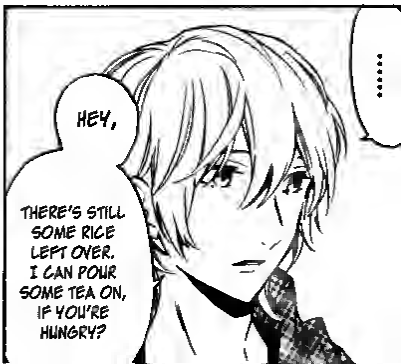
HEH HEH HEH!
AND I DID IT ALL MYSELF, TOO...
'CAUSE I'M THE BOSS.
THE LAUNDRY'S FOLDED, THE CLEANING'S DONE,
AND THE TREE'S UP.
KTNK
KCHAK

...HEY.
HEY, TAKUMI-SAN.
click
YOU DONE WITH WORK?

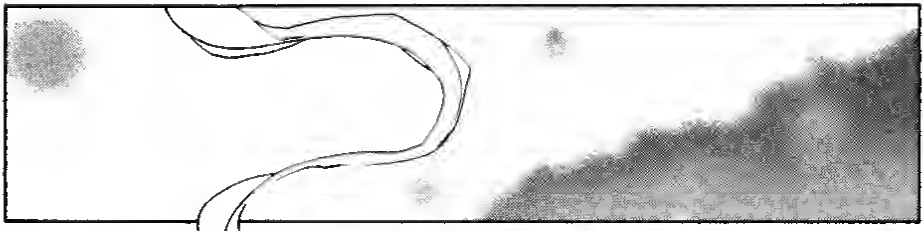
OH. YOU. AND TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE?
DAD CALLED ON THE HOTEL LINE.
SAID YOU WERE OVER.
TAKUMI-SAN CALLED? WHEN?
LAST I CHECKED HE WAS HOLED-UP IN THE STUDY WITH WORK.

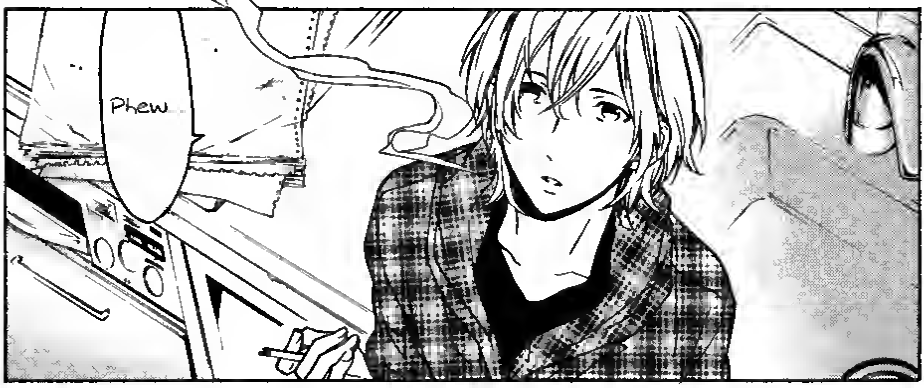
NOT HUNGRY.
...COME ON. HOW MANY DAYS HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU LAST ATE?
YOU'RE GONNA KILL YOURSELF.
I'LL BE FINE.

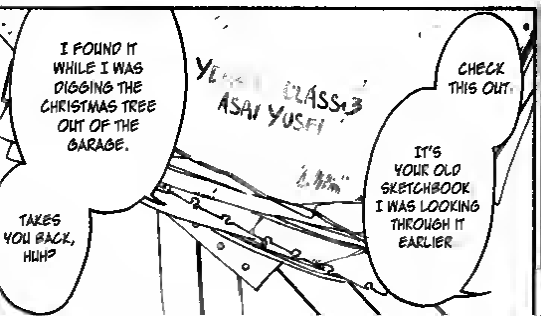
YEAH, WELL HE CALLED.
WANTED ME TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU STOPPED CALLING HIM "DADDY TAKUMI" AND SWITCHED TO "TAKUMI-SAN," TOO.
"WHAT DO YOU THINK, YUU?" HE SAYS. "DADDY'S SO SAD."
CRYING ON MY SHOULDER THROUGH THE TELEPHONE.
...FORGET I EVEN ASKED.


.....
HEY,
THERE'S STILL SOME RICE LEFT OVER. I CAN POUR SOME TEA ON, IF YOU'RE HUNGRY?

SWIPE
HEY, I'M RUNNING LOW.
OH, TO HELL WITH IT...
LET ME BUM A SMOKE.
OH. SHIT... WE'RE STILL FIGHTING, AREN'T WE?
I FORGOT
.....




Phew...


I FOUND IT WHILE I WAS DIGGING THE CHRISTMAS TREE OUT OF THE GARAGE.
TAKES YOU BACK, HUH?
CLASS 3
ASAI YUSEI
CHECK THIS OUT.
IT'S YOUR OLD SKETCHBOOK I WAS LOOKING THROUGH IT EARLIER

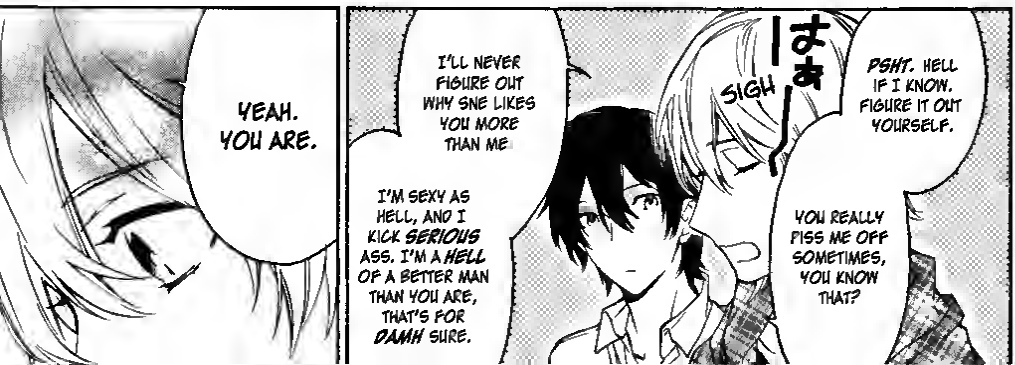
OH.

WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING ABOUT? IT'S OLD, OKAY?
I WAS LOUSY. BITE ME.
Flip
ACTUALLY, I DON'T THINK YOU'VE CHANGED THAT MUCH.
WHAT!?
IT'S TRUE, THOUGH...
I CAN FEEL YOU IN THIS, YUSEI. THE PRESENT YOU.
IT'S GOT EVERYTHING THAT MAKES YOU YOU, ALL WRAPPED-UP INSIDE.
YOU BEFORE MINAKO,
AND YOU AFTER SHE WAS GONE...

ペしん
SLAP
WHEN YOU MEET NEW PEOPLE AND FIND NEW THINGS,
TAKE IT IN. TAKE EVERYTHING YOU CAN FROM THEM...
'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU INTO WHAT YOU ARE, IN THE END.

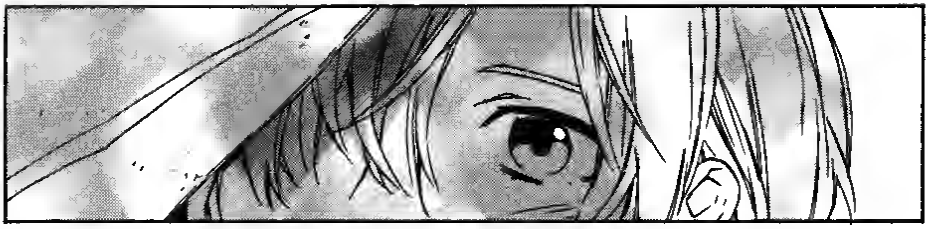
.....
AND THAT'S ALL THE ADVICE YOU'RE GETTING FROM ME.

...AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO TAKE FROM THAT?


YEAH. YOU ARE.
I'LL NEVER FIGURE OUT WHY SNE LIKES YOU MORE THAN ME
I'M SEXY AS HELL, AND I KICK SERIOUS ASS. I'M A HELL OF A BETTER MAN THAN YOU ARE, THAT'S FOR DAMN SURE.
はぁ
SIGH
PSHT. HELL IF I KNOW. FIGURE IT OUT YOURSELF.
YOU REALLY PISS ME OFF SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW THAT?

HOW STUPID DO YOU THINK I AM?
YOU AND I'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOREVER.
OF COURSE I KNOW YOU'RE A BETTER MAN THAN I AM.
NO ONE KNOWS THAT BETTER THAN I DO.
OW!

第18話 END



AND FOR ME...
THIS IS GOOD.
YUU-CHAN...
I WAS FULL OF SO MUCH ANGER JUST BOILING UNDER THE SURFACE,
YOU REALLY DO FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT ME, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S IT. I'M PUTTING YOU OUT OF MY MISERY.
Yeeek!
Somebody help! Abuse!
FRUSTRATED ENOUGH TO SAY, "YOU KNOW WHAT? FORGET IT." BUT WITH THOSE WORDS, THOSE FEW WORDS, HE MADE IT ALL GO AWAY.
THAT'S ALL I COULD EVER ASK FOR.

The Sleepy Residents of Birdcage Manor

Translation Notes for ch. 18

Williamson and Magor / Seijo Hanai (p.134)

To preface, this isn't so much a translation note as a note in general. First, Williamson and Magor isn't a tea, but a tea-distribution company started by two Englishmen (GEEE, who'd have guessed) which distributes Earl Grey blah blah blah, Darjeeling, blah blah, etc. Simply put, it's an English tea company.

Now, I have it on authority (read: the internet) that it can be a challenge to finding imports (like Combos lol) in Japan, but if you're craving a taste of home and you're in the area, you might be lucky enough to find a shop specializing in imports in your area. Now, there's no store called "Seijo Hanai" anywhere as far as google can tell me, but there IS, however, one called "Seijo Ishii" (just one character off!) near the Nagoya station's Hirokouji gate, which meshes up with the Inoue/Asai twin's description of the store preeetty well.

Rice over Tea (p.138)

Now, it might sound kind of funky if you're unfamiliar with the concept, but pouring green tea over Rice is a classic dish in Japanese cuisine that dates back... Well, I'm no expert, so I wouldn't know-- but to draw an American equivalent, it's like cereal, only using tea instead of milk, and warm rice and a smattering of other Japanese toppings (nori, for instance) for the cereal. Throw 'em all together, and you've got the spiritual Japanese equivalent of a (somewhat involved) midnight snack, a hangover cure, or just one of those feel-good dishes you crave when you're getting homesick for mama's cooking.

The Sleepy Residents of Birdcage Manor Volume 3 Ch. 18

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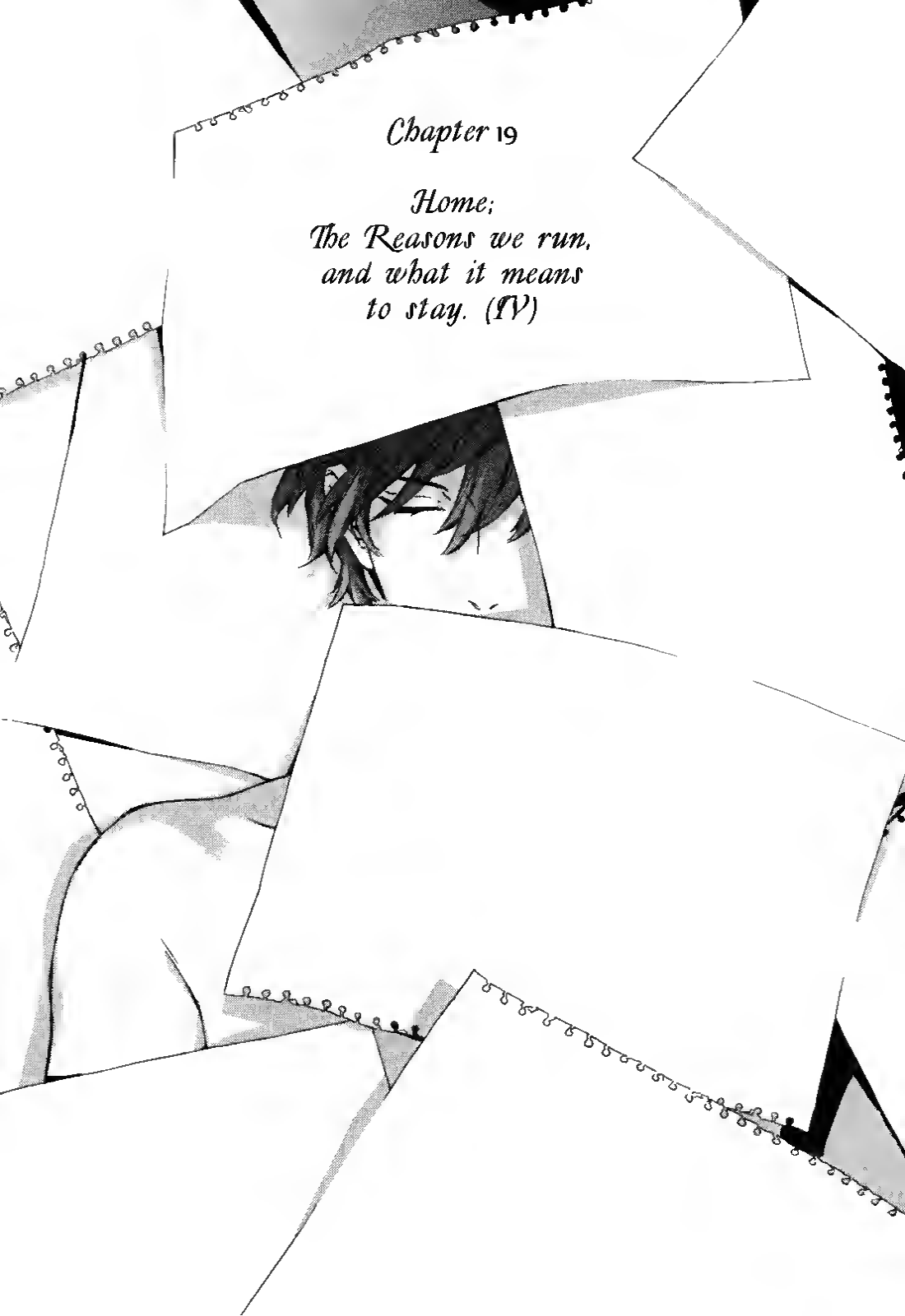
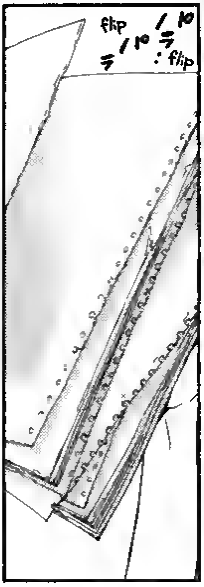


Chapter 19

Home;
The Reasons we run, and what it means to stay. (IV)

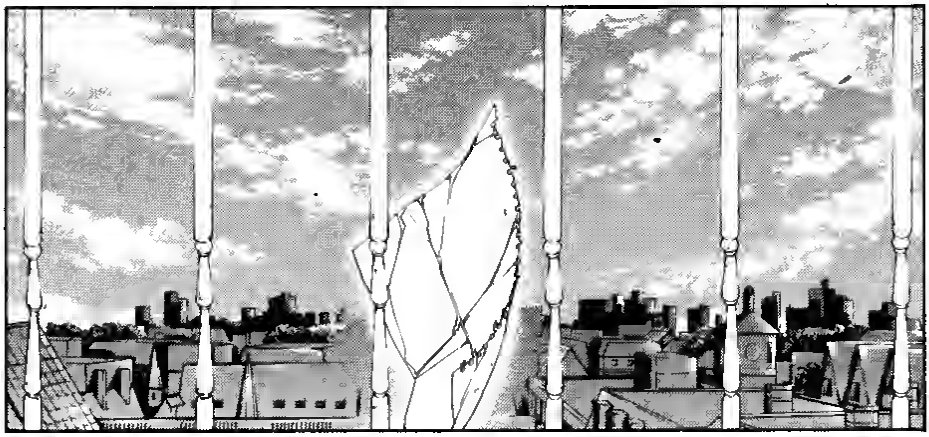
...THESE SUCK.

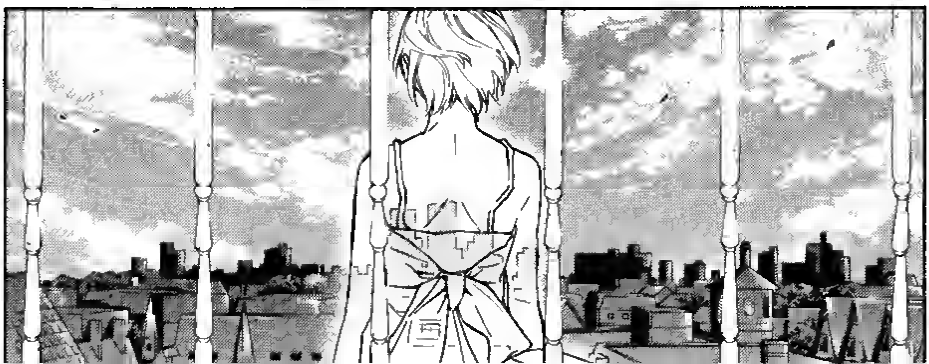

flip
flip

ALL OF THESE PAINTINGS HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON.
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THEM...

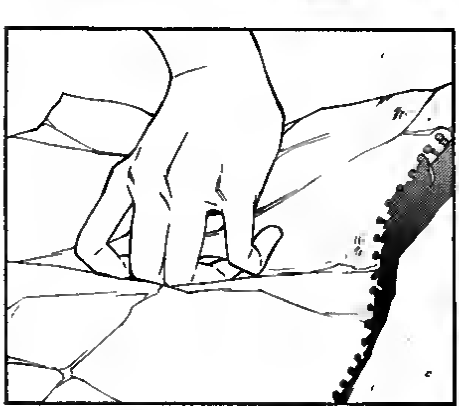
THE PERSPECTIVE AND LINE WORK ARE PRACTICALLY NONEXISTENT...
NOTHING JUMPS OUT AS THE CLEAR FOCUS...
THE STROKES ARE SLOPPY, THERE'S NO EMOTION...
BUT...

FWOO!
flutter
flutter
flutter
flutter
!
SHI-!
...SOME-THING...
DAMNED IF I KNOW WHAT.
SIGH





DON'T GO!

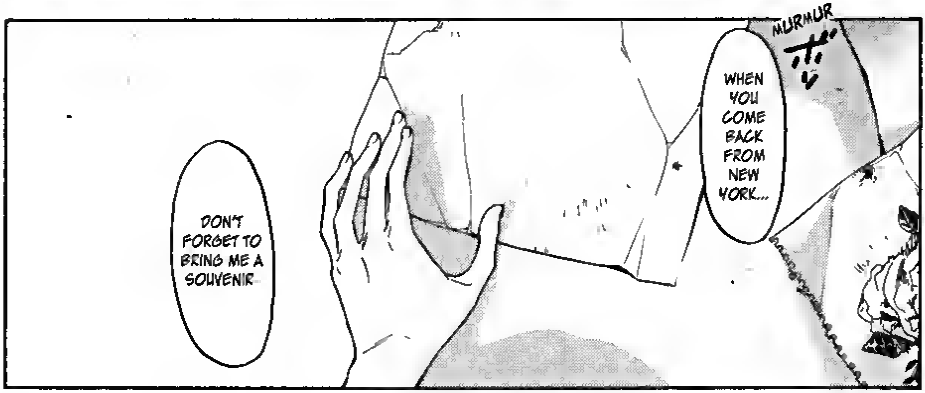


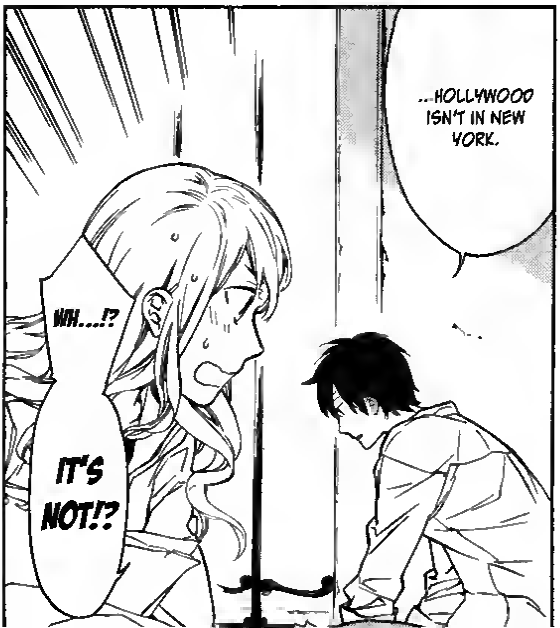
Ka-chang
Ts...
...Ow, ow, ow...
My... Knee...

...PHEW
rustle

HMPH!
フーン

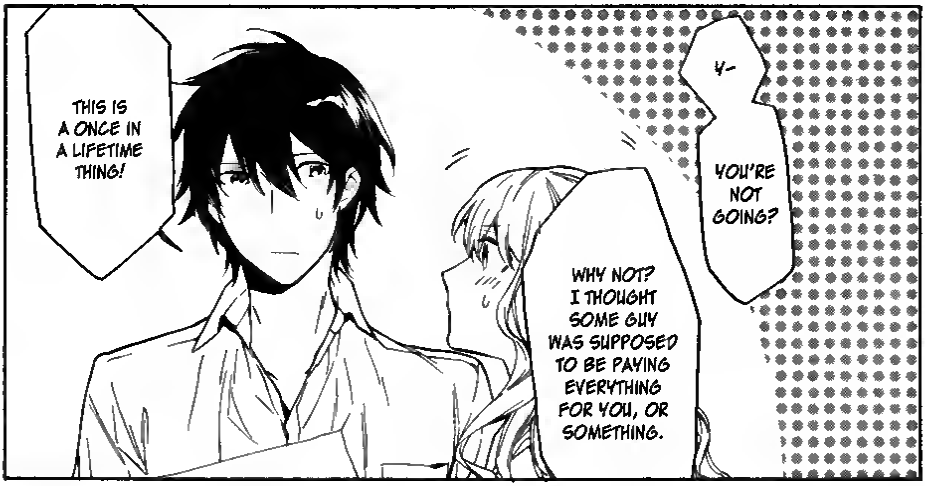
.....
.....


MURMUR
WHEN YOU COME BACK FROM NEW YORK...
DON'T FORGET TO BRING ME A SOUVENIR


...HOLLYWOOD ISN'T IN NEW YORK.
WH...!?
IT'S NOT!?

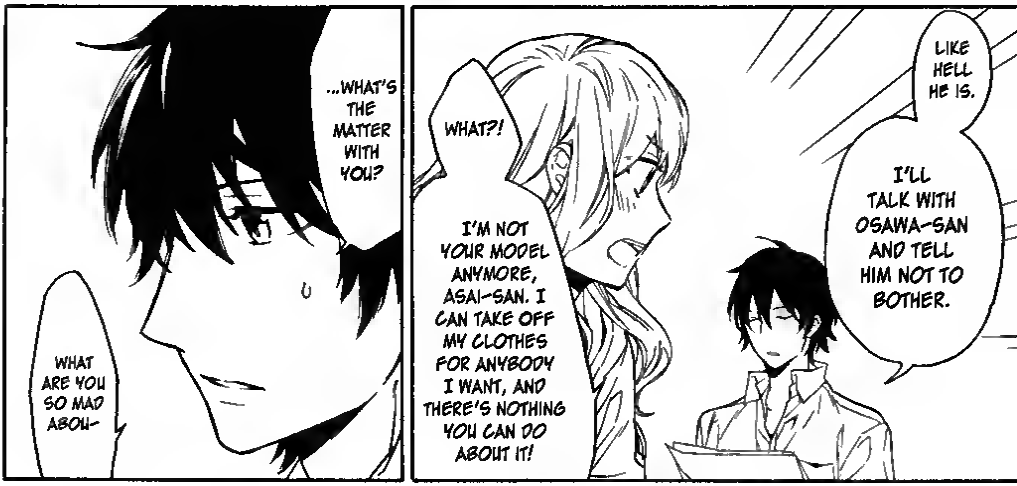
I WANT AN AUTOGRAPH FROM THAT TARANTINO GUY IN HOLLY-WOOD...

BESIDES,
I HAVEN'T DECIDED IF I'M ACTUALLY GOING YET.


THIS IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME THING!
WHY NOT? I THOUGHT SOME GUY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE PAYING EVERYTHING FOR YOU, OR SOMETHING.
Y-
YOU'RE NOT GOING?

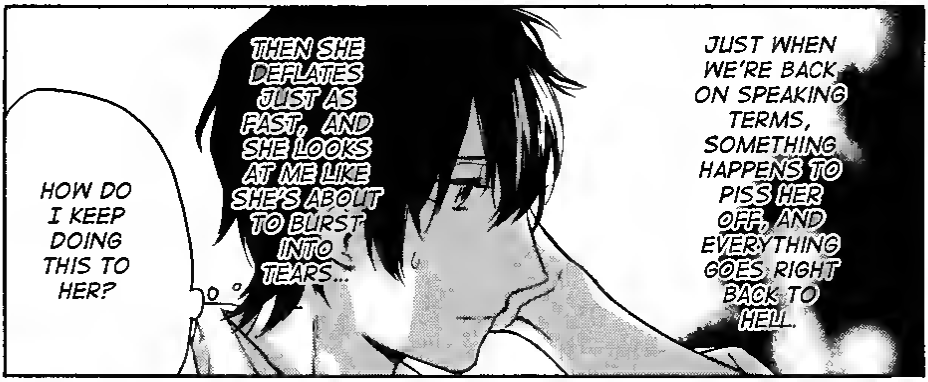
...MAKE UP YOUR MIND...
DO YOU WANT ME TO STAY, OR DO YOU WANT ME TO GO?

AT LEAST THE ATMOSPHERE WILL LIGHTEN UP AROUND THIS PLACE ONCE YOU'RE GONE!
ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I'M HUMIDITY?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'D BE STARVED FOR WORK ONCE YOU LEFT, EITHER.
OSAWA JUNIOR ALREADY SAID HE'D HOOK ME UP WITH SOME PEOPLE.
WH-WH-
WHAT DID YOU THINK I WAS TRYING TO GET YOU TO DO?
I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT NOT WANTING YOU TO GO.
HERE!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, THEN GO RIGHT AHEAD.
Hey.


...WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU SO MAD ABOU-
WHAT?!
I'M NOT YOUR MODEL ANYMORE, ASAI-SAN. I CAN TAKE OFF MY CLOTHES FOR ANYBODY I WANT, AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!
LIKE HELL HE IS.
I'LL TALK WITH OSAWA-SAN AND TELL HIM NOT TO BOTHER.

I'M A WHAT?
YOU BRAIN-DEAD SKIRT-CHASER!
You heard me! Your blatant ignorance is what makes you brain-dead!
WELL, GEE WHIZ! MAYBE YOU'D FIGURE IT OUT IF YOU TOOK A LOOK IN THE DAMN MIRROR!

Ngh
haah
haah

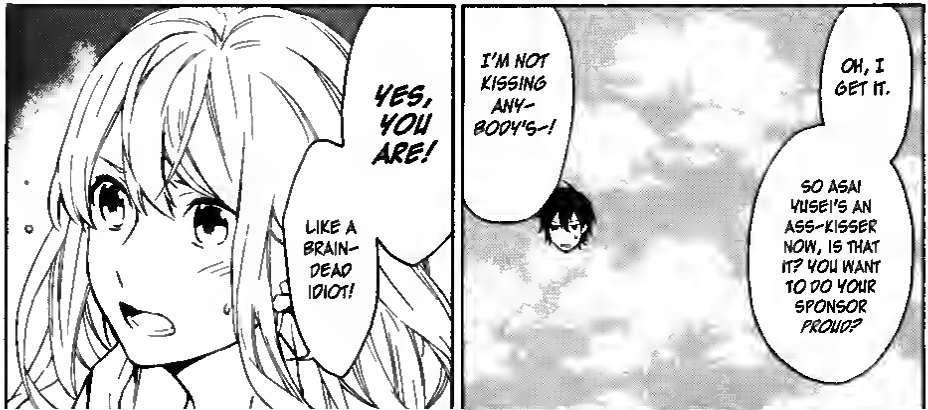

JUST WHEN WE'RE BACK ON SPEAKING TERMS, SOMETHING HAPPENS TO PISS HER OFF, AND EVERYTHING GOES RIGHT BACK TO HELL.
THEN SHE DEFLATES JUST AS FAST, AND SHE LOOKS AT ME LIKE SHE'S ABOUT TO BURST INTO TEARS...
HOW DO I KEEP DOING THIS TO HER?

NOBODY'S GOING TO JUDGE YOU IF YOU DECIDE YOU DON'T WANT TO GO, SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
ARE YOU SCARED? IS THAT IT?

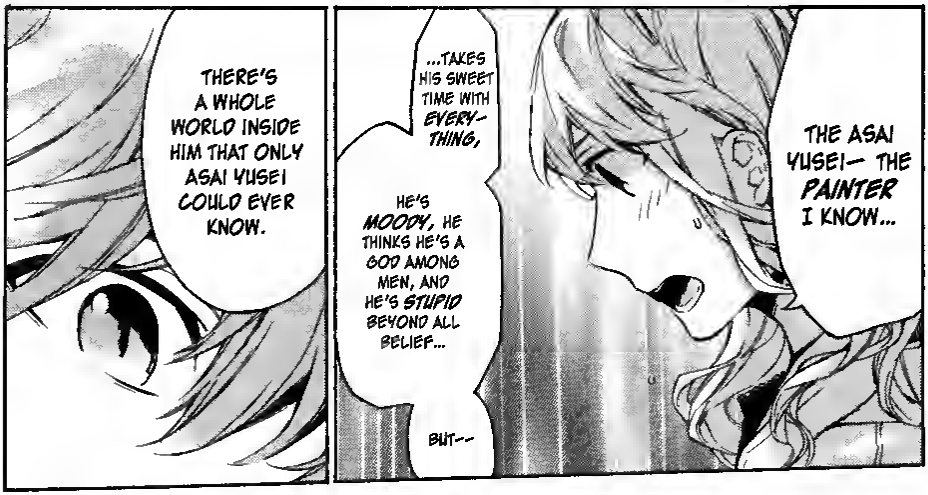
...WHY ARE YOU MAKING THIS HARDER THAN IT NEEDS TO BE?

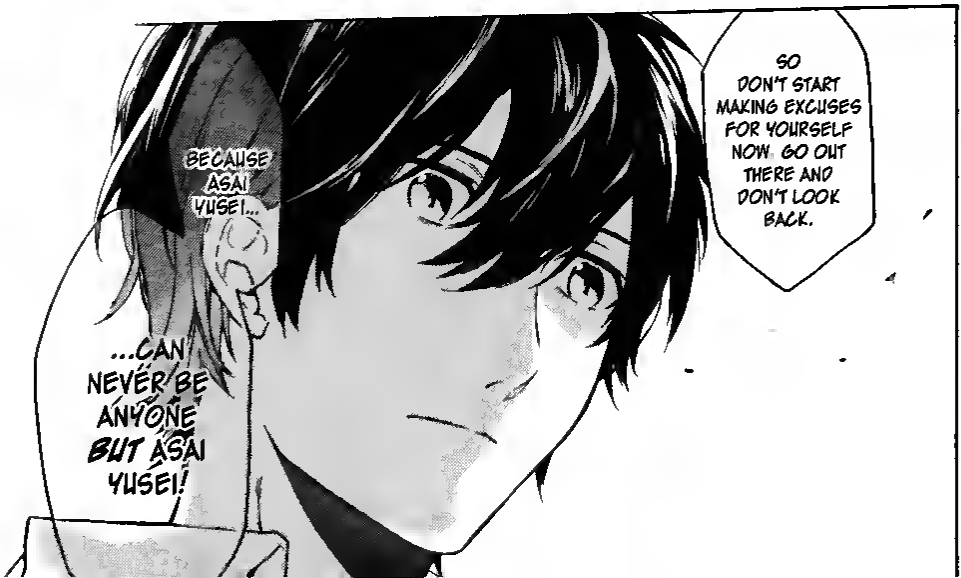
SNAP
...LOOK.
IT'D BE ONE THING IF I DECIDED TO STUDY ABROAD JUST FOR THE HELL OF IT, BUT I'M NOT.
I'VE GOT MY SPONSOR TO WORRY ABOUT, TOO.
WHO CARES IF YOU'VE MADE A NAME FOR YOURSELF HERE? JAPAN'S JUST A TINY LITTLE ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN.
YOU GO OUT THERE EXPECTING TO GET TREATED THE SAME WAY YOU ARE HERE, AND YOU'LL GET EATEN ALIVE.
AMERICA'S A BIG PLACE, AFTER ALL. YOU'LL BE JUST ONE MORE FACE IN AN ENDLESS SEA OF PEOPLE.

SO YEAH, I'M GOING TO GIVE THIS A LOT OF THOUGHT.
IF I GET THERE AND IT TURNS OUT I REALLY DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO STAND OUT, THEN I'M DISAPPOINTING MY SPONSOR, AND I'M MAKING OSAWA-SAN LOOK BAD, TOO.


YES, YOU ARE!
LIKE A BRAIN-DEAD IDIOT!
I'M NOT KISSING ANY-BODY'S-!
OH, I GET IT.
SO ASAI YUSEI'S AN ASS-KISSER NOW, IS THAT IT? YOU WANT TO DO YOUR SPONSOR PROUD?

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE HOW OTHER PEOPLE VALUE YOUR WORK?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'D EVER DRAW ANYTHING IF SOMEONE COMMISSIONED YOU TO.
AND IF YOU'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT YOU, THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING PAINTING THOSE CREEPY THINGS IN THE FIRST PLACE!?


THE ASAI YUSEI— THE *PAINTER* I KNOW...
...TAKES HIS SWEET TIME WITH *EVERY-THING*,
HE'S *MOODY*, HE THINKS HE'S A GOD AMONG MEN, AND HE'S *STUPID* BEYOND ALL BELIEF...
BUT--
THERE'S A WHOLE WORLD INSIDE HIM THAT ONLY ASAI YUSEI COULD EVER KNOW.


SO DON'T START MAKING EXCUSES FOR YOURSELF NOW. GO OUT THERE AND DON'T LOOK BACK.
BECAUSE ASAI YUSEI...
...CAN NEVER BE ANYONE *BUT* ASAI YUSEI!

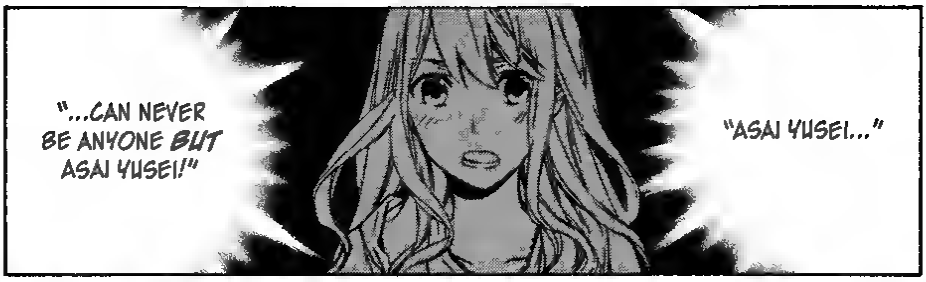
SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE MY DRIED AND HOLLOWED BODY
A WIND BEGINS TO BLOW, LIKE A STORM RUSHING THROUGH ME.
I'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND...
HOW SHE CAN SAY THINGS LIKE THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE.
LIKE A FIERCE TYPHOON,
BATTERING ME FROM THE INSIDE, TRYING TO WASH ME AWAY FROM THE THINGS THAT HAVE KEPT ME AFLOAT UNTIL THIS MOMENT.

...I'M OUT OF HERE.
I'M NOT WASTING MY TIME WITH A LOSER LIKE YOU.
YOU CAN GO TO AMERICA, OR INDIA, OR THE NORTH POLE FOR ALL I CARE!
stomp stomp
rustle
IT BEATS AT ME THOUGH I'VE NEVER, EVER WANTED TO MOVE FROM THIS SPOT,
MINAKO...
OR TAKE A STEP FROM THIS PLACE...

第19話 END

Residents of Birdcage Manor Volume 3, ch. 19
Edited by Melfra
Typeset by ZippyZippy
Translated by Rebmastu
Scanned by Melfra

MINA-KO...
WHY...
DOES IT ALL HAVE TO BE SO HARD...


"...CAN NEVER BE ANYONE BUT ASAI YUSEI!"
"ASAI YUSEI..."

AND YET...
I STILL CAN'T PAINT THE WAY I DID BEFORE SHE WAS GONE...
I'VE TRIED SO HARD...
TO DISTANCE MYSELF FROM ANYTHING THAT WOULD THREATEN MINAKO'S PLACE INSIDE OF ME...

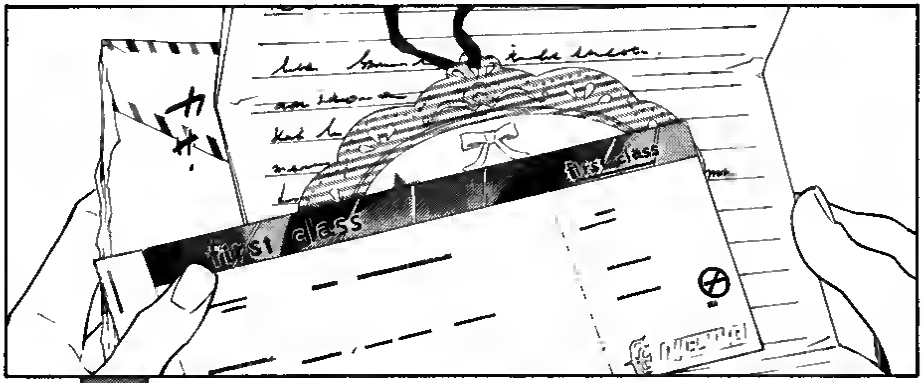
"It was never me."
"...Me..."
fwoo

It's always been there inside of you.
Before you met Minako...
While she was with you...
And even after she was gone...

I WANT TO PAINT!
"I can't do anything more to help you."
"Go on, now. This isn't where you belong."
THE IMPULSE TAKES HOLD OF ME TO THE POINT WHERE NOTHING ELSE EXISTS IN MY MIND.
THE IDEA IS SO NATURAL, SO *RIGHT* THAT I'D BEGUN TO TAKE IT FOR GRANTED. BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT, THE FEELING HAD SLIPPED AWAY.
THERE'S A PURE WHITE CANVAS RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF ME,
AND I CAN USE IT HOWEVER I WANT!

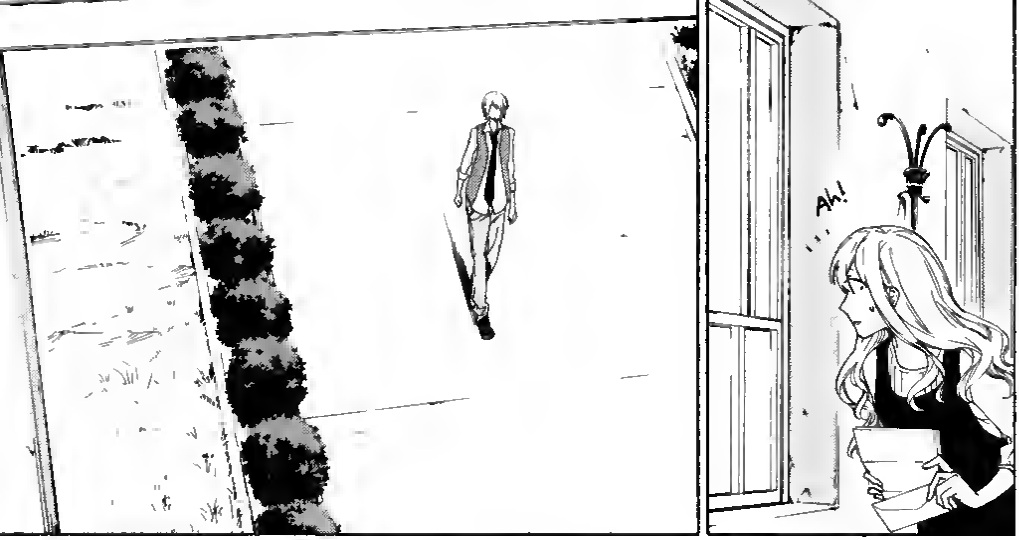
"It's time, Yusei. This is how it should be."
"There, you see? It all makes sense now, doesn't it?"
"Bye-bye."

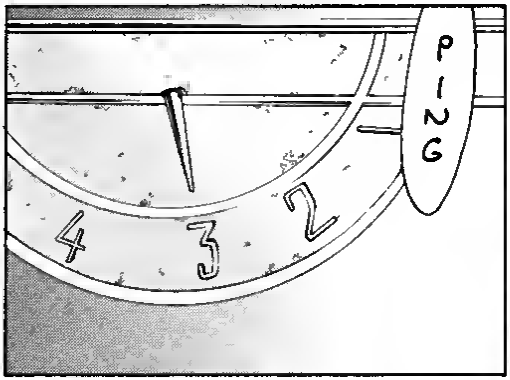
KIZUNA-SAN,
THERE'S A LETTER FOR YOU.
THANKS.
WELL, I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.


first class
first class

.....
Merry X'mas
first class
THE RIGHTS TO BIROCAGE MANOR...?

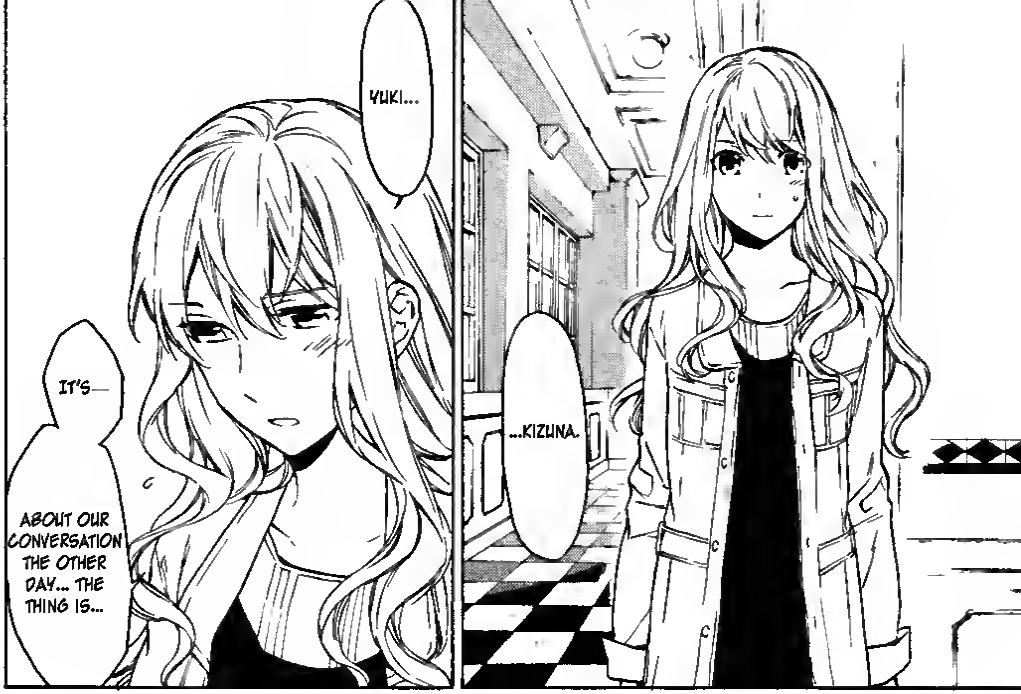
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU SEE, KIZUNA-SAN, HOTEL WILLIAMS CHILD BIRD, THE PLACE YOU'VE BEEN LIVING, IS OWNED BY MY HUSBAND.
SHOULD YOU COME HERE AND BE FORMALLY ADOPTED INTO OUR FAMILY,
HE'S MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO EVENTUALLY HAND IT OVER TO YOU.
THE HOTEL HASN'T AGED WELL OVER THE YEARS, SO THERE ARE PLANS FOR ITS DEMOLITION.
BUT THE OPTION IS AVAILABLE, SHOULD YOU WISH TO PURSUE IT.

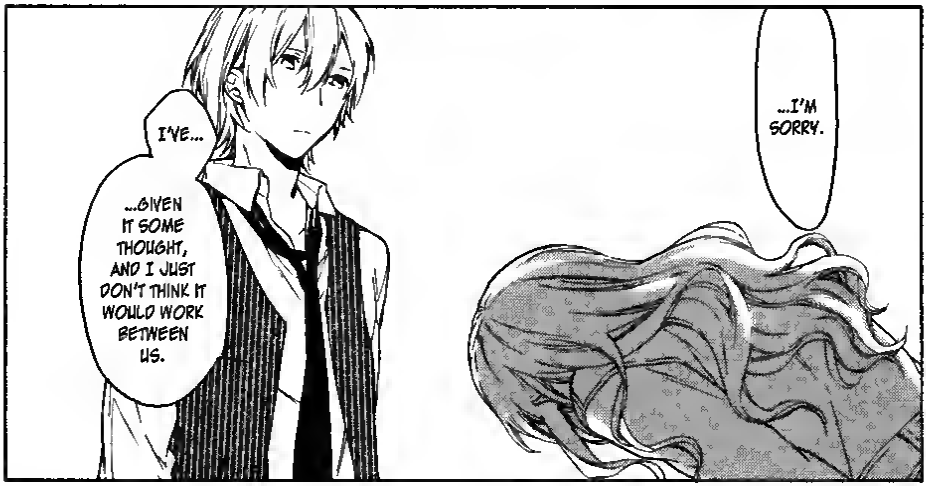

Ah!
...


PING

TINK
TINK
TINK
TINK
CLANG

OH...


YUKI...
IT'S—
ABOUT OUR CONVERSATION THE OTHER DAY... THE THING IS...
...KIZUNA.


I'VE...
...GIVEN IT SOME THOUGHT, AND I JUST DON'T THINK IT WOULD WORK BETWEEN US.
...I'M SORRY.

AW, SHUCKS
!

I THINK I'M GONNA NEED A KISS TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER
AH-?!
I FIGURED YOU'D FEEL THAT WAY, BUT IT STILL HURTS TO HEAR YOU SAY IT..
O-
OH, YUKI, I...
I KNEW IT...
OKAY, JUST...
LEAN OVER A BIT...
Grin
Grin
Grin
YUSS'M.
...C-
CAN IT BE ON THE CHEEK?
FINE BY ME-E.
oh, god
TUG!
Gotcha. ♪
Mm

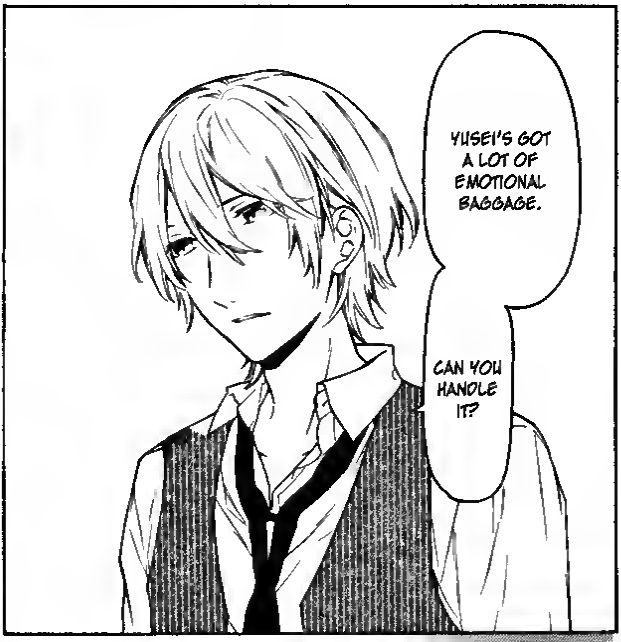
WA...!
YUKI!
HEY!
YOU STUPID!
CHEATING!
PERVERT!
Mm
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I WANT A REAL KISS.
RIGHT ON THE LIPS!

OUCH...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE SO BLUNT ABOUT IT...
...JEEZE.
PSYCH!
BUT I HAD YOU GOING THERE, DIDN'T I?

KIZUNA...
STRANGE AS IT SOUNDS COMING FROM ME.
YOU'D BE BETTER OFF, YOU KNOW.
WOULD I REALLY BE THAT BAD?
はぁ SIGH

……

I'M SORRY.


YUSEI'S GOT A LOT OF EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE.
CAN YOU HANDLE IT?

I'D BE BETTER OFF IF YOU WERE THE ONE I CARED FOR MOST, YUKI.
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
I HAVE FUN BEING WITH YOU,
AND THERE'S NOT A DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT YOU WOULD TREAT ME WELL.

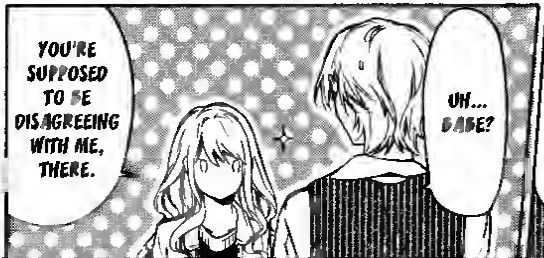
BUT...
I CAN'T HAVE YOU BOTH.

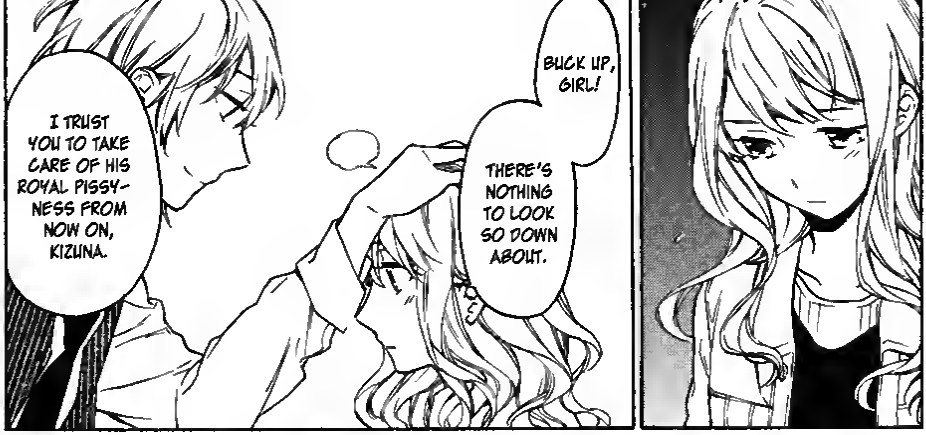
IT'S OKAY.
I UNDER-STAND.

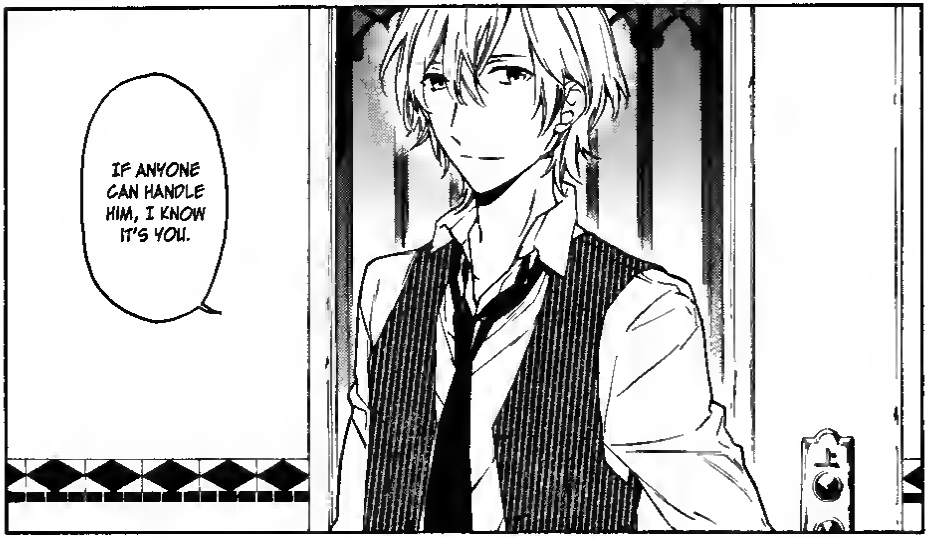
IF I TRIED, I'D ONLY LOSE BOTH OF YOU IN THE END.
BUT I STILL...

YEAH...
MORE OR LESS.

YOU KNOW.. I THINK I'VE FINALLY REALIZED SOMETHING.
SO IN MY CASE, MY PERFECTION IS MY OWN DOWNFALL!
GIRLS DIG GUYS WITH EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE. IT EVOKES THEIR MATERNAL INSTINCTS OR SOMETHING, I GUESS.

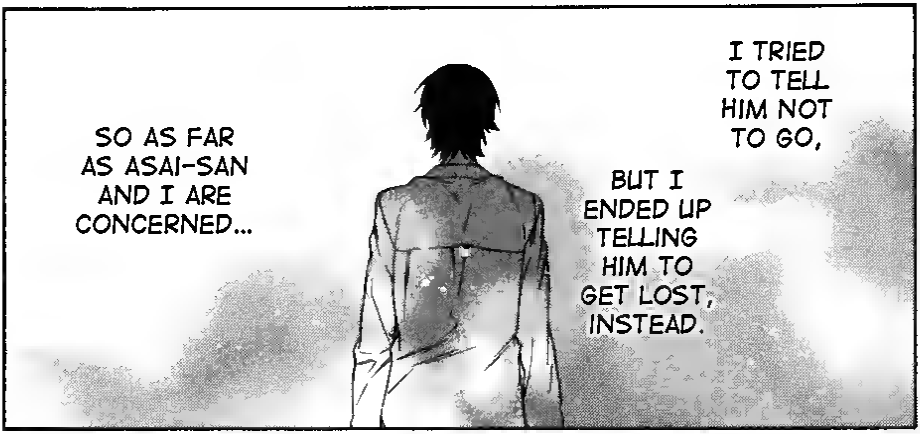

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DISAGREEING WITH ME, THERE.
UH... BABE?

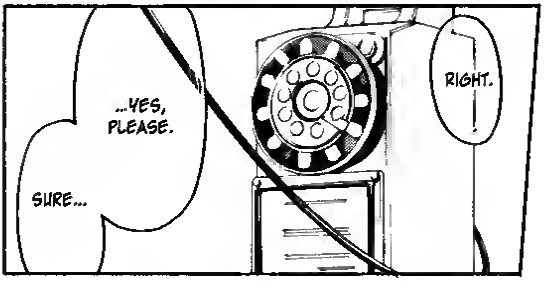

I TRUST YOU TO TAKE CARE OF HIS ROYAL PISSY-NESS FROM NOW ON, KIZUNA.
BUCK UP, GIRL!
THERE'S NOTHING TO LOOK SO DOWN ABOUT.


IF ANYONE CAN HANDLE HIM, I KNOW IT'S YOU.

I FIGURED YOU GUYS MUST HAVE HAD A HEART-TO-HEART, THAT'S ALL.
THE LAST FEW DAYS, THERE'S BEEN MORE OF A SPRING TO HIS STEP.
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HAVE YOU SAID ANYTHING TO YUSEI LATELY?
BY THE WAY..

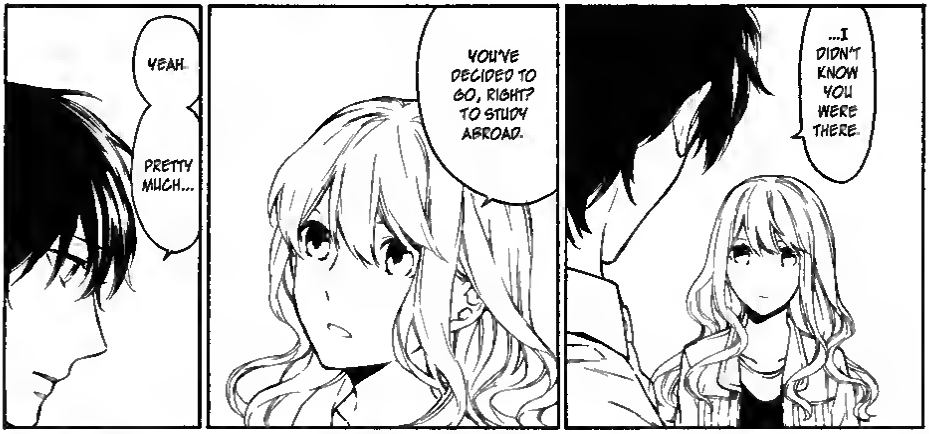
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
NO..
NOTHING SPECIAL...


SO AS FAR AS ASAI-SAN AND I ARE CONCERNED...
I TRIED TO TELL HIM NOT TO GO,
BUT I ENDED UP TELLING HIM TO GET LOST, INSTEAD.


SURE...
...YES, PLEASE.
RIGHT.

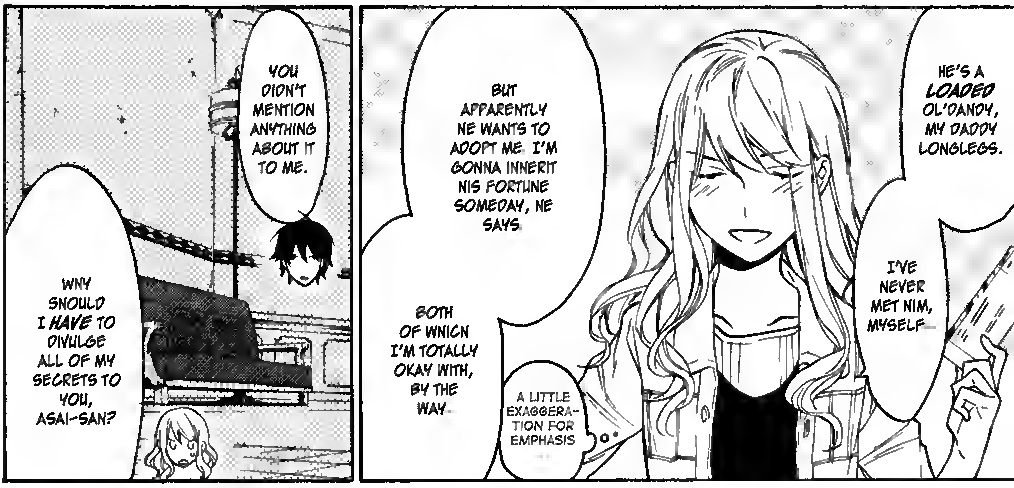
I THINK OUR FUTURE IS PRETTY CLEAR...
RIIING
RIIING
OKAY.
I'LL TALK TO YOU SOON.
CHING

DO YOU KNOW...
WHEN YOU'RE LEAVING YET?
!


YEAH.
PRETTY MUCH...
YOU'VE DECIDED TO GO, RIGHT? TO STUDY ABROAD.
...I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THERE.

I'LL ONLY BE GONE FOR A WEEK THIS TIME.
TO MEET MY SPONSOR, LOOK FOR AN APARTMENT, THAT SORT OF THING... I HAVE TO BE PACKED AND READY TO GO FOR REAL IN MARCH.
THAT'S PRETTY SHORT NOTICE
SO WHEN DO I LEAVE?
I THINK... IT'S THE 25TH.

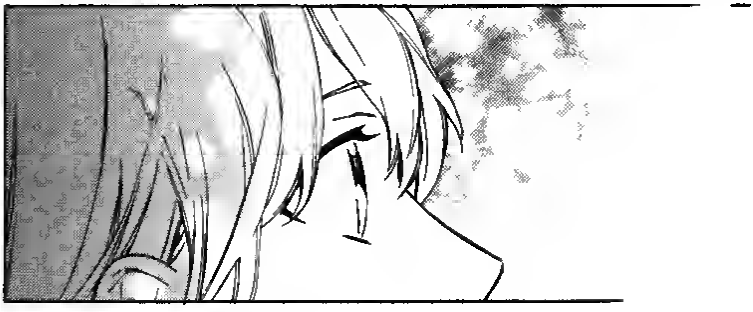
...WHAT?
I'M SORRY, DIDN'T I SAY?
DADDY LONGLEGS WANTS ME TO COME TO ENGLAND.
THEN I GUESS WHEN YOU GET BACK AROUND NEW YEAR'S, I'LL ALREADY BE GONE.
NO KIDDING?
WAVE
WAVE


YOU DIDN'T MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT IT TO ME.
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO DIVULGE ALL OF MY SECRETS TO YOU, ASAI-SAN?
HE'S A LOADED OL'DANDY, MY DADDY LONGLEGS.
I'VE NEVER MET HIM, MYSELF...
BUT APPARENTLY HE WANTS TO ADOPT ME. I'M GONNA INHERIT HIS FORTUNE SOMEDAY, HE SAYS.
BOTH OF WHICH I'M TOTALLY OKAY WITH, BY THE WAY...
A LITTLE EXAGGERATION FOR EMPHASIS

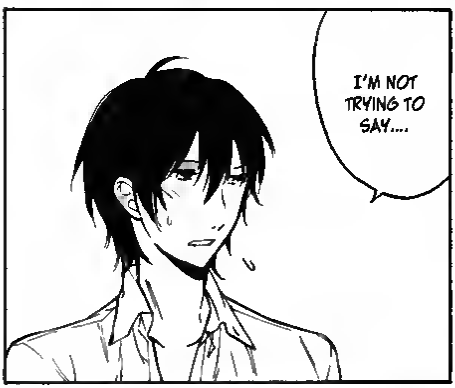
EXCUSE ME?!
WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW!? YOU'VE NEVER MET HIM, EITHER!
THAT'S JUST IT! YOU SAID YOU'VE NEVER MET THIS GUY.
FOR ALL YOU KNOW HE COULD BE SOME PERVERTED OLD GEEZER!

I AM NOT GOING TO GET HELD—
IF YOU'RE GONNA GO OFF TO GET HELD HOSTAGE BY SOME CREEPY OLD PERVERT WHILE I'M GONE—
DON'T BE AN IDIOT.
YOU WORRY ABOUT GETTING FRIENDLY WITH YOUR BUXOM, BLONDE BOMBSHELL, AND I'LL WORRY ABOUT MYSELF
AND GRABBING A BRAND-SPANKING NEW MODEL YOURSELF!
AND LIKE YOU HAVE ROOM TO TALK! YOU'RE GOING TO AMERICA,

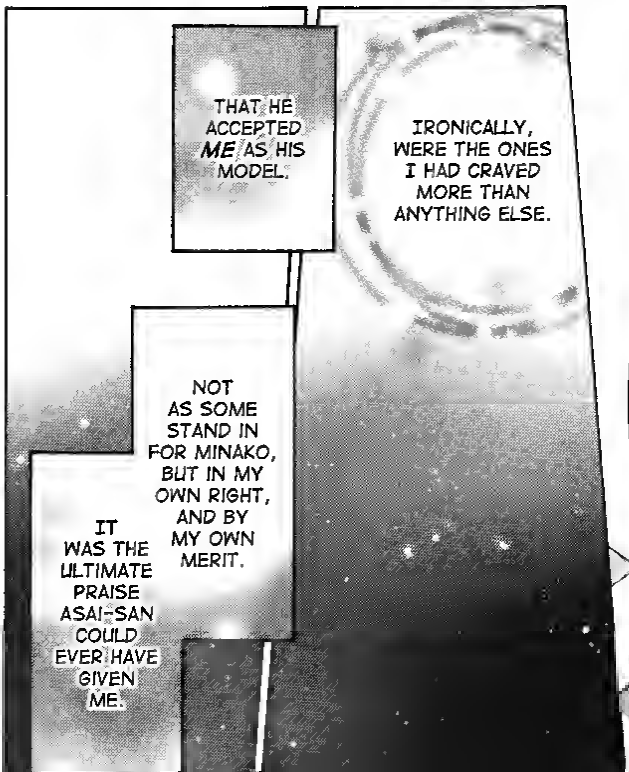
—HOSTAGE...
TO NEW YORK...
THEN YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME.



...WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY...?


I'M NOT TRYING TO SAY....

OH, HEY. THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.

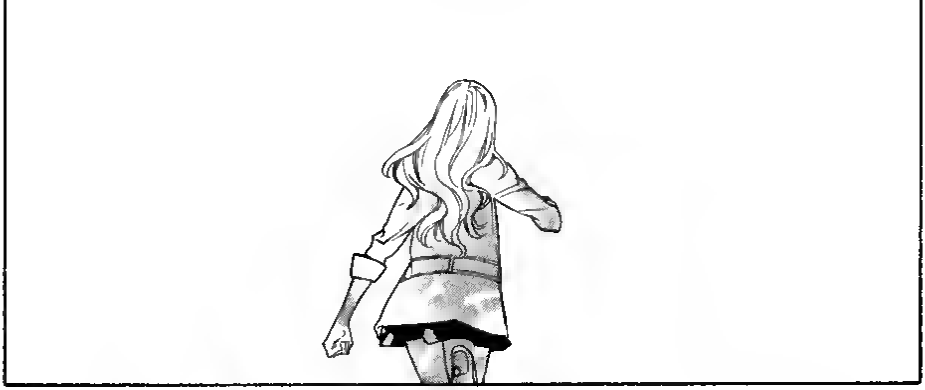

THAT HE ACCEPTED ME AS HIS MODEL.
IRONICALLY, WERE THE ONES I HAD CRAVED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
NOT AS SOME STAND IN FOR MINAKO, BUT IN MY OWN RIGHT, AND BY MY OWN MERIT.
IT WAS THE ULTIMATE PRAISE ASAI-SAN COULD EVER HAVE GIVEN ME.

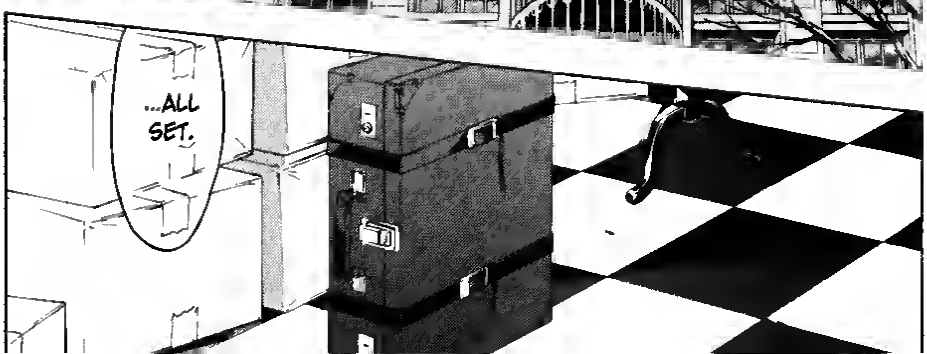
I MEAN, IF YOU WANTED TO, YOU COULD.
I WANT YOU TO BE MY MODEL.
THE WORDS THAT LEFT HIS MOUTH...

IN THE BEGINNING, IT WAS WHAT I WOULD HAVE WANTED.
BUT NOT NOW.

I'M NOT GOING TO NEW YORK JUST SO YOU CAN BE THE ONE TO HOLD ME HOSTAGE!
YOU'RE GOING OUT THERE TO CHASE YOUR DREAMS, AREN'T YOU?
THEN JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING HERE BEHIND AND GO!
JUST... LEAVE ME ALONE...

COULD YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN YOU LOVED MINAKO?
WOULD YOU...
LOVE ME MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE?
OR...
I HAVE TO KEEP MY JAW SET. IF I DON'T, I'LL JUST END UP GIVING IN.
GASP
DASH
JUST FORGET IT!
Uh
I LIED! THAT WAS A TOTAL LIE!
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING!
UH...
YOU SAID SOME-THING...
BLUUUSH
Would you love me more than anyone else?"





第20話 END

Residents of Birdcage Manor Volume 3, ch 20
to you by Turtle Paradise Scanlations @ http://www.turtle-paradise.net
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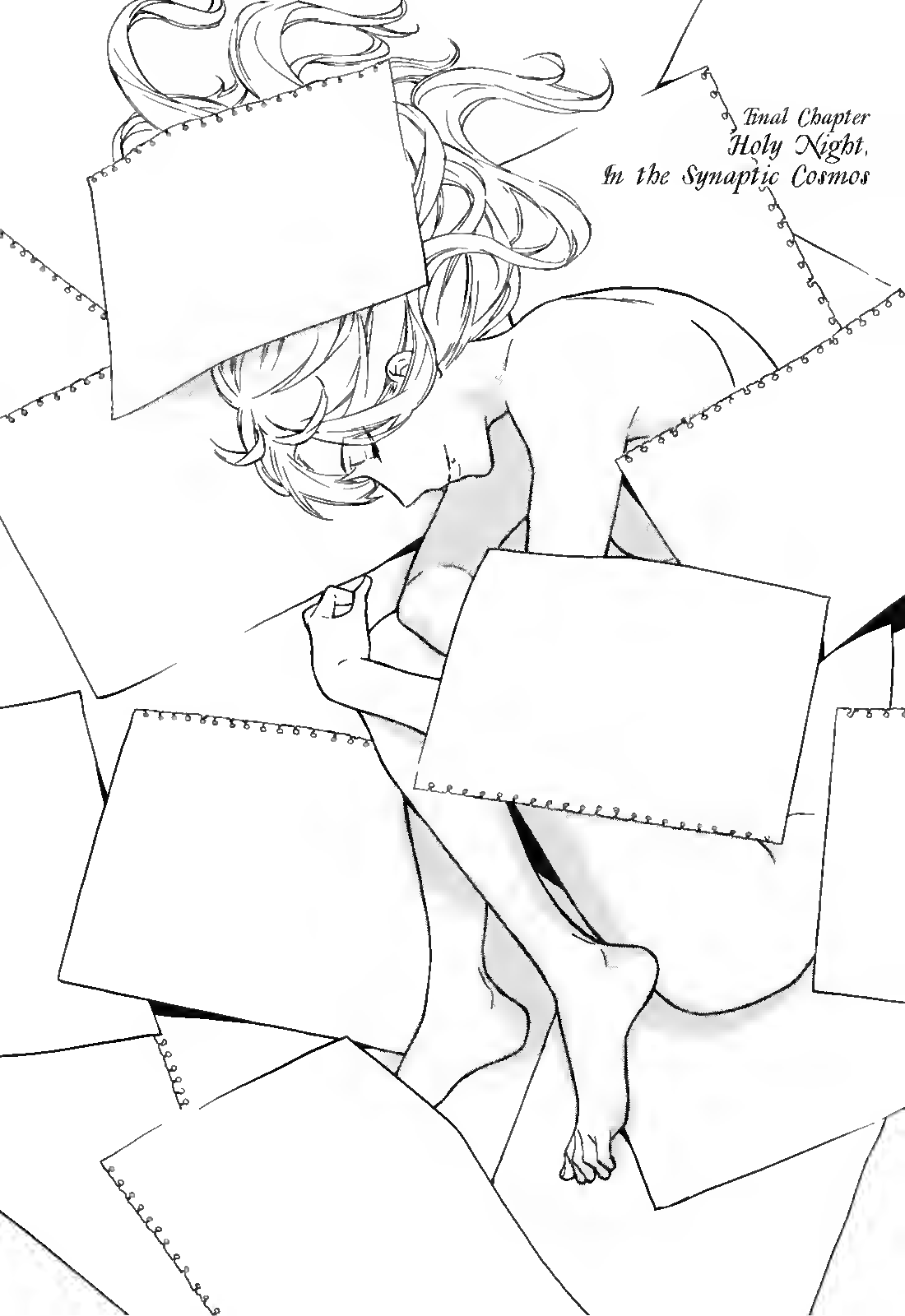
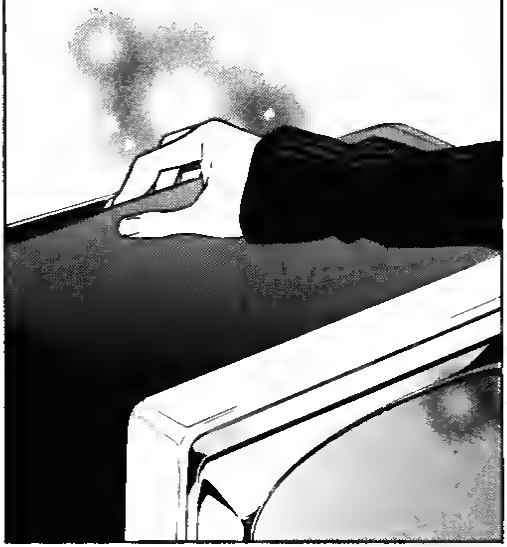
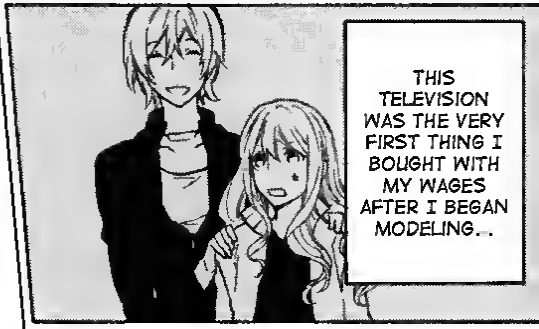
Scanned by Melina

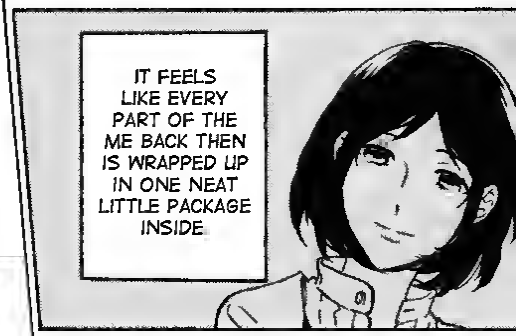

Final Chapter
Holy Night,
In the Synaptic Cosmos



GUESS I'LL JUST LEAVE THE TV BEHIND... IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN USE IT WHERE I'M GOING, ANYWAY.
pat
THEY'LL BE OKAY WITH THAT, RIGHT?

I WONDER HOW THE GIRLS HAVE BEEN DOING LATELY... ETSUKO, RUMI, AND THE REST OF THE GANG.


THIS TELEVISION WAS THE VERY FIRST THING I BOUGHT WITH MY WAGES AFTER I BEGAN MODELING...


IT FEELS LIKE EVERY PART OF THE ME BACK THEN IS WRAPPED UP IN ONE NEAT LITTLE PACKAGE INSIDE.

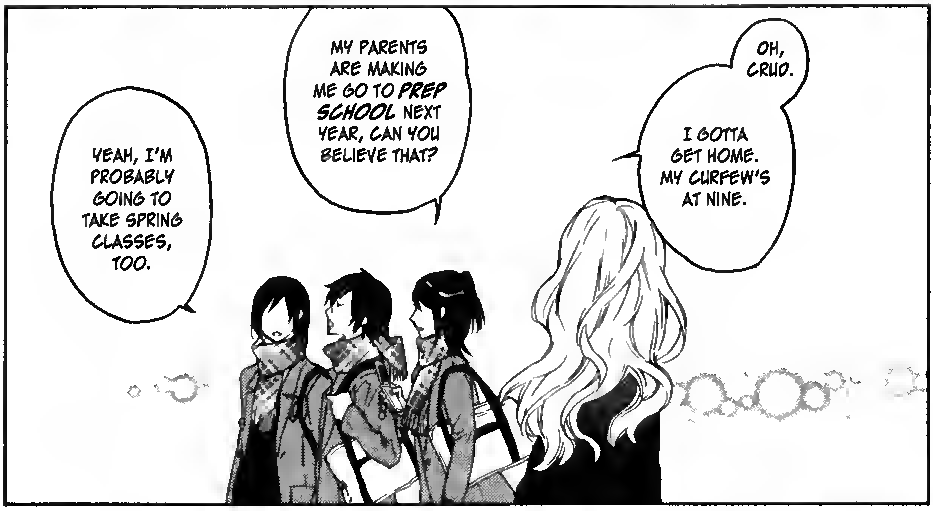
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST SAW THEM
MAYBE I COULD PAY THEM A VISIT.
Merry Christmas
Merry Xmas
VRRUM
HAAH
はぁ…

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE I LEFT, AFTER ALL...
"Seriously? I've been wanting to check that place out."
"Girl, that cell strap is cuuute! Where'd you get it?"
I SHOULDN'T BE SUR-- PRISED...
THEY'RE GONE...

ONLY 580 YEN? MAYBE I'LL GET ONE FOR MYSELF.
OOOH, ME, TOO!
DO THEY HAVE IT IN ANY OTHER COLORS?

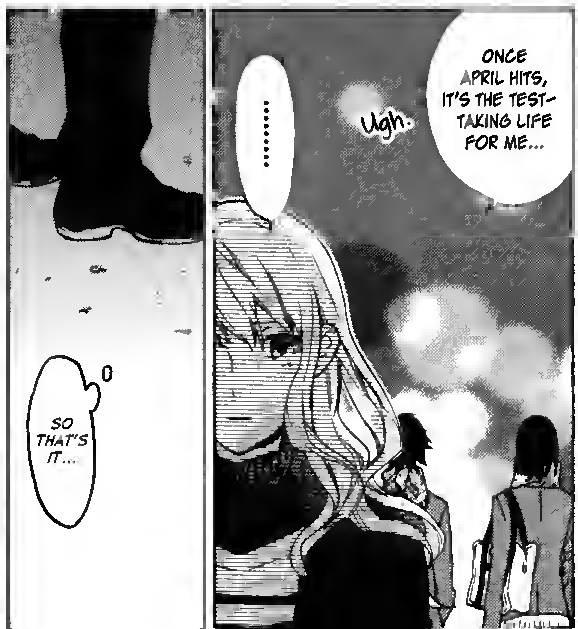
GIRL,
THAT CELL STRAP IS CUUUTE!
WHERE'D YOU GET IT?

!
RUMI...!
YEAH.
I'LL TAKE YOU GUYS WITH ME NEXT TIME.


MY PARENTS ARE MAKING ME GO TO PREP SCHOOL NEXT YEAR, CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
OH, CRUD.
I GOTTA GET HOME. MY CURFEW'S AT NINE.
YEAH, I'M PROBABLY GOING TO TAKE SPRING CLASSES, TOO.

THERE'S NO ONE LEFT ON THE STREETS ANYMORE...

THEY WENT BACK TO THE REAL WORLD A LONG... LONG TIME AGO...

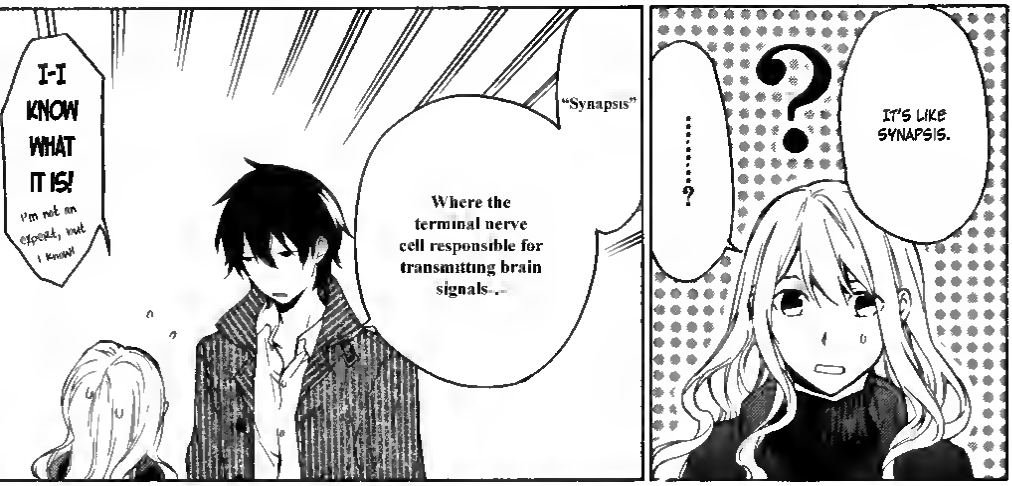


IF I KNEW IT WOULD MAKE ME FEEL THIS SMALL,
I NEVER WOULD HAVE COME...
WHY DID I EVER THINK THIS WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA...?
I'D LEFT BEFORE THEM, YET FOR SOME REASON...
I'M THE ONLY ONE STILL STANDING HERE
...ETOH?
A...
ASAI-SAN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
S-SAME TO YOU...

I WAS ON MY WAY BACK FROM THE GALLERY.
O-OH... RIGHT... YOU'RE LEAVING TOMORROW. SAYING BYE TO OSAWA-SAN BEFORE YOU GO, HUH?
BUMP
AH...

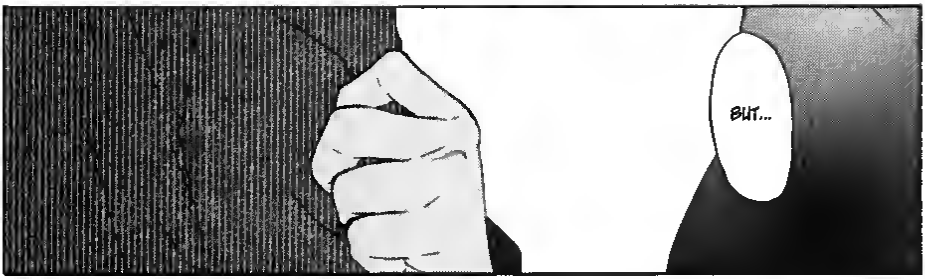
AFTER TOMORROW, ASAI-SAN WILL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I KNOW I NEED TO SAY SOMETHING NOW, WHILE I STILL HAVE THE CHANCE...
SOMETHING, ANYTHING...
JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR HIM TO SAY ANYTHING I CAN USE TO BURN HIS VOICE INTO MY MEMORY.
...THIS IS FROM WHEN I WAS A KID,
SO JUST LISTEN. AND DON'T LAUGH, ALL RIGHT?
MY DAD USED TO TELL ME...
I COULDN'T STAND GOING INTO THE CITY IN DECEMBER.
YOU KNOW HOW THEY PUT UP LIGHTS ALL OVER THE PLACE, RIGHT? THEY... SCARED ME.
HE SAID I USED TO START CRYING AND SCREAMING TO GO HOME.

ANYWAY, I WAS STUDYING IN JUNIOR HIGH OR HIGH SCHOOL, I DON'T KNOW WHICH, WHEN I PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER.
YEAH, BUT DOESN'T IT WEIGH DOWN ON YOU?
LIKE YOU'RE TRAPPED INSIDE THIS GIANT CREATURE THAT'S SUCKING YOU DEEPER INSIDE WITH EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE...
YOU WERE SCARED OF THE LIGHTS? WHY?
THEY'RE PRETTY, IF YOU ASK ME.

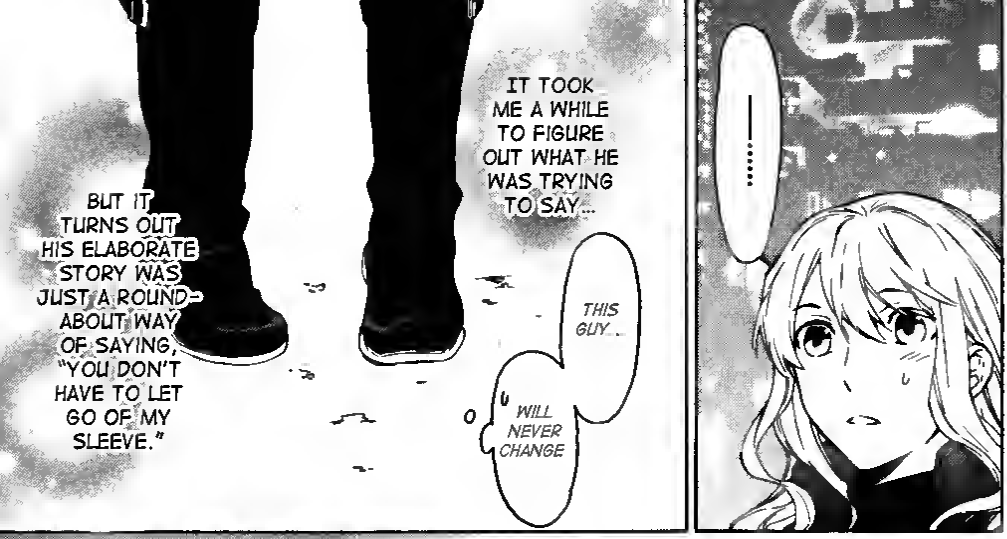

I-I KNOW WHAT IT IS!
I'm not an expert, but I know!
"Synapsis"
Where the terminal nerve cell responsible for transmitting brain signals...
?
.....?
IT'S LIKE SYNAPSIS.

IT'S A COMPLETE CIRCUIT FROM THE ENTRANCE RIGHT THERE TO THE EXIT ON THE OTHER SIDE.
SEE HOW THEY'RE ALL CONNECTED?
LIKE A NEURON.

SO WHEN THE LIGHTS FLICKER ON AND OFF, IT'S LIKE SIGNALS BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE BRAIN.
IT FELT LIKE THIS GIANT, MAN-MADE OBJECT REPRESENTED THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ALL AT ONCE...
I GUESS THE REASON I WAS SO AFRAID WAS BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TO LIFE AND CRUSH ME.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I STILL DON'T REALLY PLACES LIKE THIS.


BUT...

IT'S NOT SO BAD AS LONG AS I'M WITH SOMEONE ELSE


BUT IT TURNS OUT HIS ELABORATE STORY WAS JUST A ROUND-ABOUT WAY OF SAYING, "YOU DON'T HAVE TO LET GO OF MY SLEEVE."
IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO SAY...
THIS GUY...
WILL NEVER CHANGE
……

HE STANDS A CONSTANT COMPANION TO THINGS THAT AREN'T QUITE HUMAN... FIGHTING TOOTH AND NAIL TO CREATE WORKS INTO A WORLD THAT ALWAYS THREATENS TO ANNIHILATE THEM.

HE HAS A WAY OF SAYING THINGS THAT EXCITE YOU WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.

AND EVERY TIME IT HAPPENS, I'M REMINDED, ONCE AGAIN, OF THE WAYS I'VE BEEN TOUCHED BY ASAI YUSEI'S ARTFUL WAY OF THINKING.

I'M SURE HIS SPONSOR AND OSAWA-SAN ARE EAGER TO SEE HOW ASAI-SAN'S VALUE AS A PAINTER STANDS UP IN A CITY LIKE NEW YORK.
AND ONCE HE'S SET OUT, ALONE, INTO A WORLD SO GIANT, SO DIVERSE, AND SO OVERWHELMING,
WHAT KIND OF WORKS THIS MAN NAMED ASAI YUSEI WILL CREATE,
AND HOW HE'LL GROW AS A PERSON...

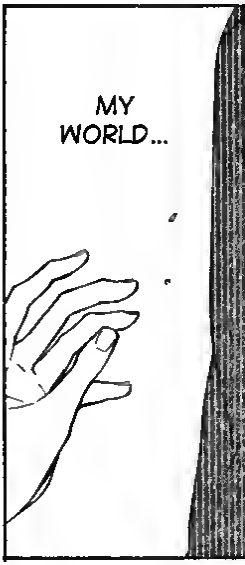
I KNOW I ACTED LIKE A BIG SHOT BEFORE, TELLING YOU TO THROW IT ALL AWAY AND LEAVE,
BUT IT'S ONLY EASY FOR ME TO SAY THAT BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO THROW AWAY.

HE HAS THAT AFFECT ON EVERYONE HE TOUCHES.
...I FEEL KIND OF SILLY...

I KNOW BETTER THAN TO ASK YOU TO COME WITH ME AGAIN.
...BUT YOU WERE RIGHT. THAT'S WHAT I SHOULD DO.

I WANT TO HANG AROUND HERE FOR A WHILE.
I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER.
HEY... HEAD BACK WITHOUT ME.

IS EMPTY...
...SO WHY DOES IT HURT LIKE THIS?

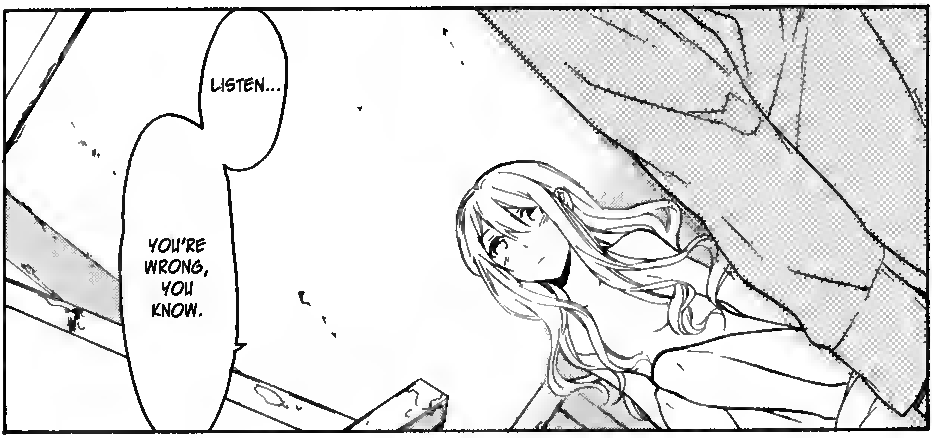

MY WORLD...

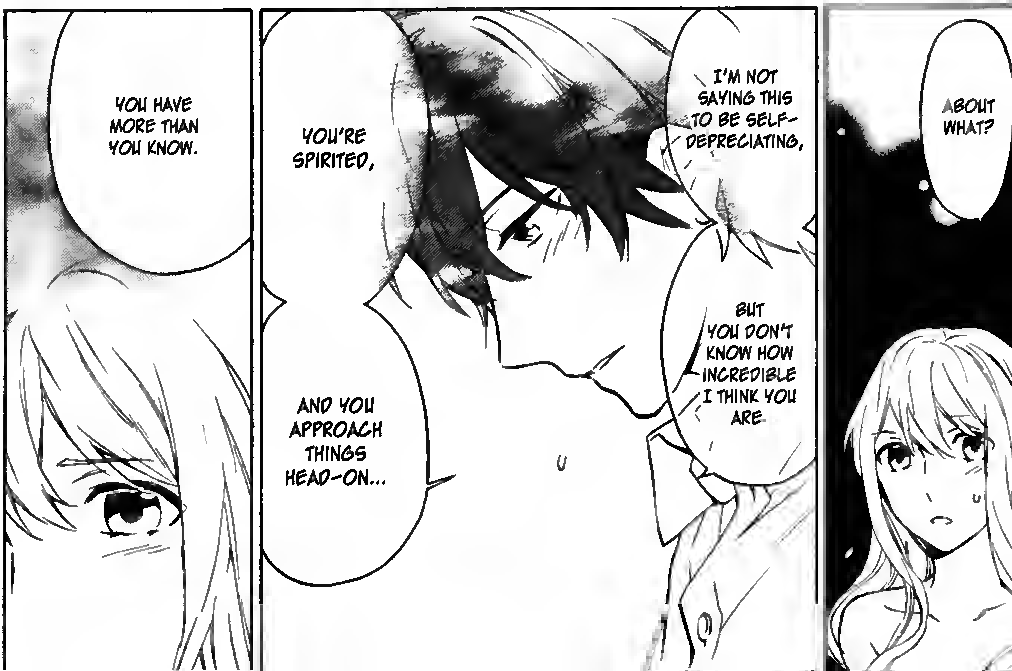
I ONLY WANT SOMEONE TO SAY NICE THINGS TO ME.
AND WHEN I'M WITH ASAI-SAN, I CAN'T STOP HUNGERING TO HEAR THEM COME FROM HIS MOUTH, AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN.
COME WITH ME.
FWUMP
FLAIL
FLAIL
FLAIL
WH-WHY!?
LET ME GO!

NO....
I'M NOT DOING IT!
TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF.
!
flip
flip
...?
silence...
WHAT DID YOU THINK I WAS GOING TO DO?
...HUH?
Y-YOU'RE JUST GOING TO DRAW?

WHAT-EVER'S FINE.
BLUSH
W-
Which pose!?
"WHATEVER," HUH.
EASY FOR HIM TO SAY
WH... WHAT?
AM I DOING IT WRONG?

...NO.
THAT'S GREAT.


LISTEN...
YOU'RE WRONG, YOU KNOW.

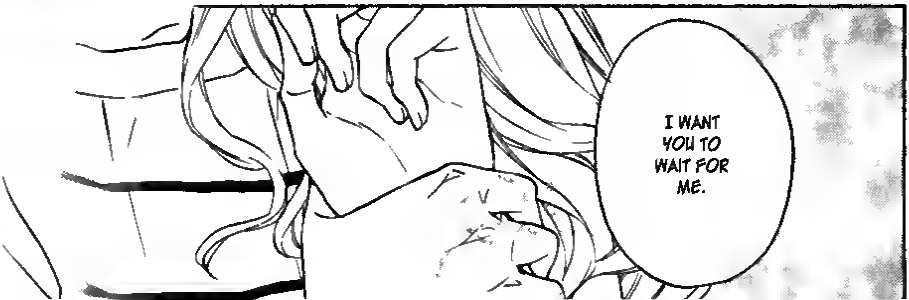

YOU HAVE MORE THAN YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE SPIRITED,
AND YOU APPROACH THINGS HEAD-ON...
I'M NOT SAYING THIS TO BE SELF-DEPRECIATING,
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW INCREDIBLE I THINK YOU ARE.
ABOUT WHAT?

DAMN IT... I'M GOING TO CRY.
"NOT TRYING TO BE SELF-DEPRECIATING," HE SAYS. HE'S DEFINING THE WORD! THAT STUPID, TYPICAL GIRL OF A MAN!
Y-
YOU'RE NOT FOOLING ANYBODY WITH YOUR FLATTERY.
I'VE NEVER FLATTERED ANYONE A DAY IN MY LIFE.
HEY.
I'M STILL DRAWING.
I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING!
THIS IS EMBARRASSING THE HELL OUT OF ME, AND IT'S TAKING EVERY LAST OUNCE OF WILLPOWER I'VE GOT TO SAY IT, SO LET ME SPIT IT OUT, ALREADY!
THE ONLY PERSON YOU'RE EMBARRASSING HERE IS ME!
STOP IT!
LET ME GO!
WOULD YOU... JUST...
...SIT HERE FOR ONE SECOND?

I'LL SAY THIS ONE LAST TIME, SO LISTEN CLOSE.

I THINK YOU'RE INCREDIBLE.
I DON'T KNOW WHEN IT STARTED TO HAPPEN,
BUT I SEE SOME-THING IN YOU.

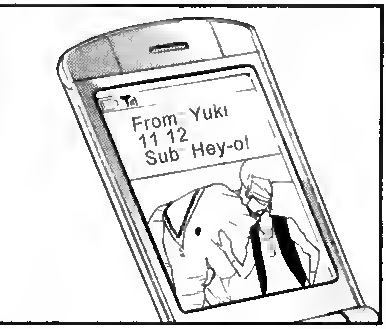
THAT'S THE BEST I CAN SAY FOR NOW.
AND HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GIVE YOU THE NUMBER ONE PLACE IN MY HEART.
BUT UNTIL I COME BACK,
AND IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU...

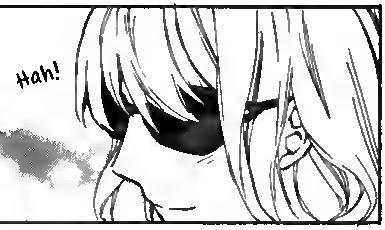

I WANT YOU TO WAIT FOR ME.

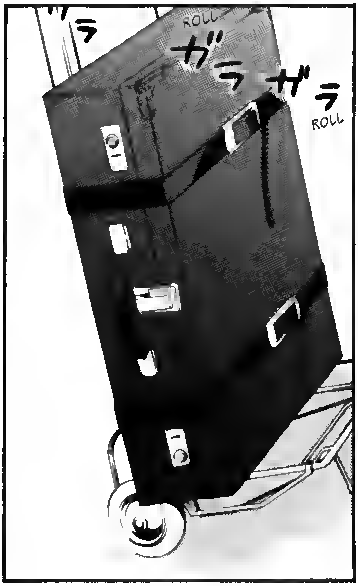
WHAT ARE YOU, STUPID ...!?
...WH...
I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU!
I'M NOT SOME GIRL YOU CAN DROP AND PICK BACK UP WHEN IT'S CONVENIENT FOR YOU!
YOU CAN WALK THROUGH THAT DOOR WITH TEARS IN YOUR EYES, BUT DON'T YOU DARE EXPECT ME TO BE WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE UNTIL YOU'RE DONE WITH SCH... SCHOOL...!
MM-HM.
YEAH.
THAT'S YOU, ALL RIGHT.

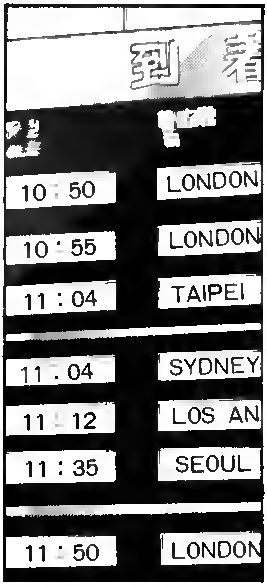
FIRST HE SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW IF HE CAN MAKE ME THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE, THEN HE LEANS OVER AND KISSES ME AS SOON AS THE WORDS ARE OUT OF HIS MOUTH.
HE'S NEVER PREDICTABLE, AND HE ALWAYS ENDS UP DRIVING ME CRAZY NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES.
SEE? LOOK AT THIS GUY.
HE'S SUCH A JERK.

SO YOU SEE,
ALL THE THRILLS AND HEART-RACING MOMENTS I YEARNED FOR BACK THEN ARE RIGHT HERE WITH HIM.
SO EVEN IF I NEVER FIND MY WAY BACK TO THOSE LONELY STREETS,
THIS IS ONE THRILL I'LL NEVER LET GO OF AGAIN.









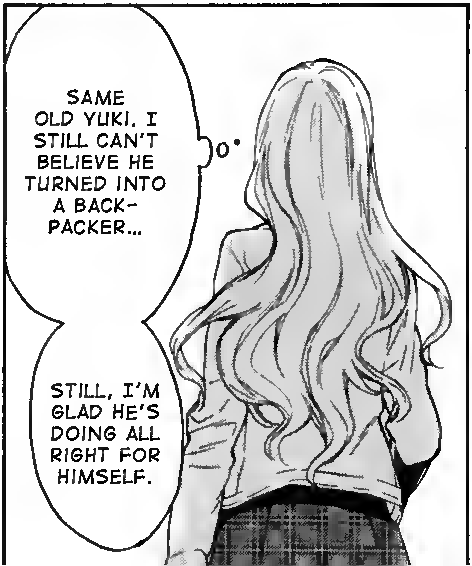
"THANKS FOR THE SUNGLASSES. THEY REALLY CAME IN HANDY."

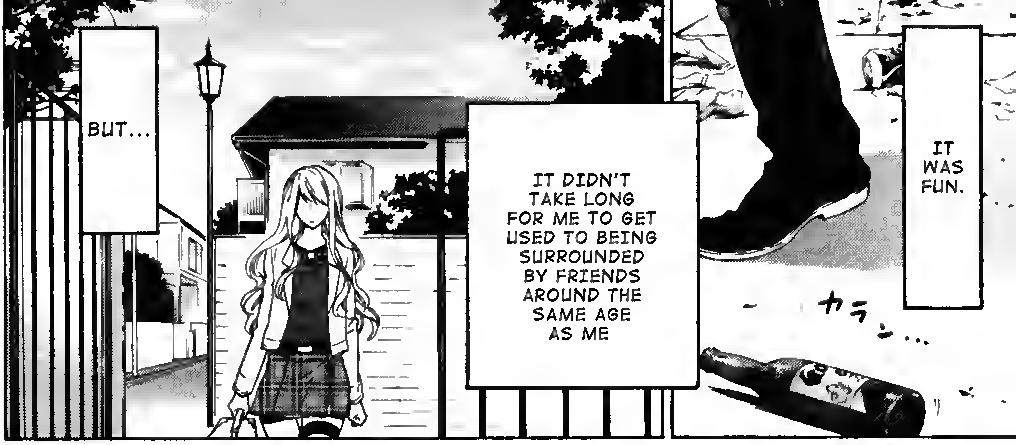
"SORRY I HAD TO LEAVE. I KNOW YOU WANTED ME TO STICK AROUND A WHILE LONGER."

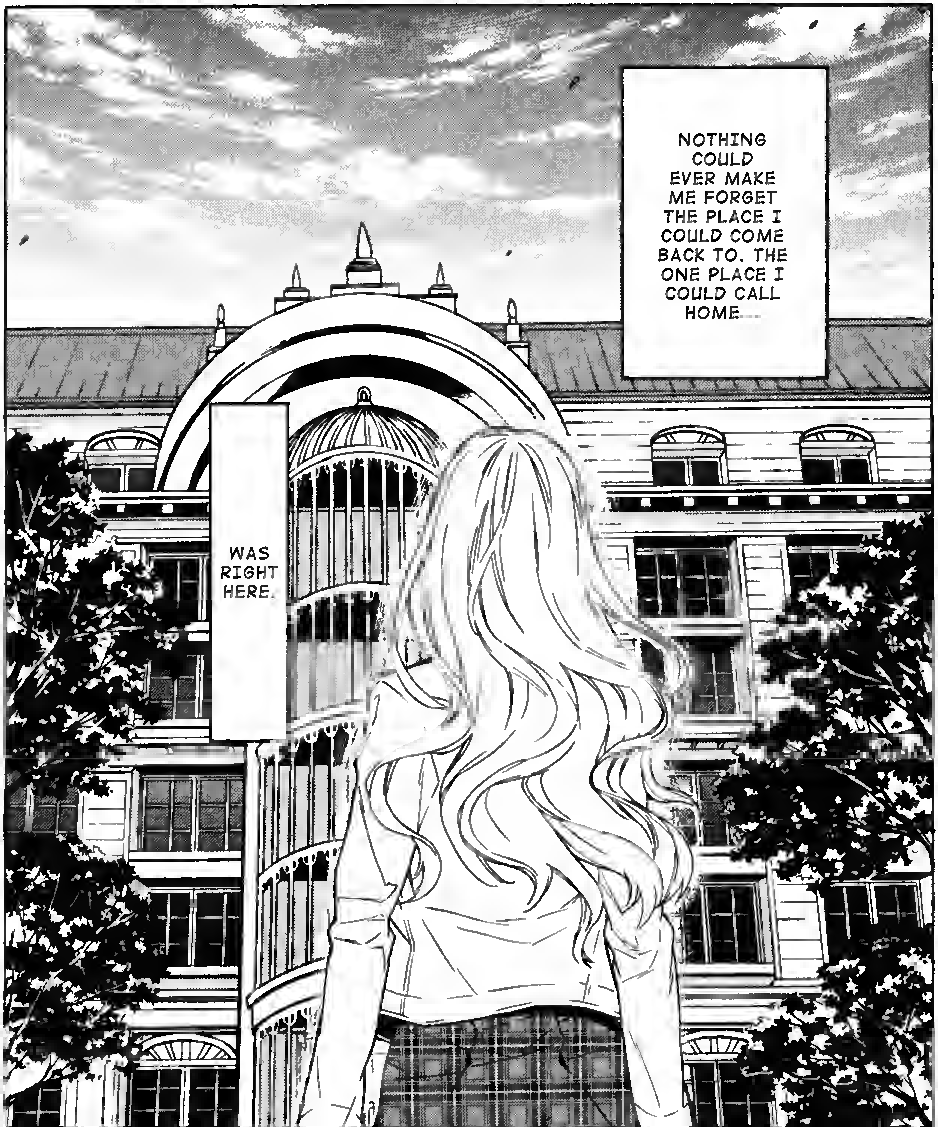
ONCE I GET MYSELF SETTLED IN, I'LL WRITE SOME LETTERS TO MY FRIENDS IN LONDON.

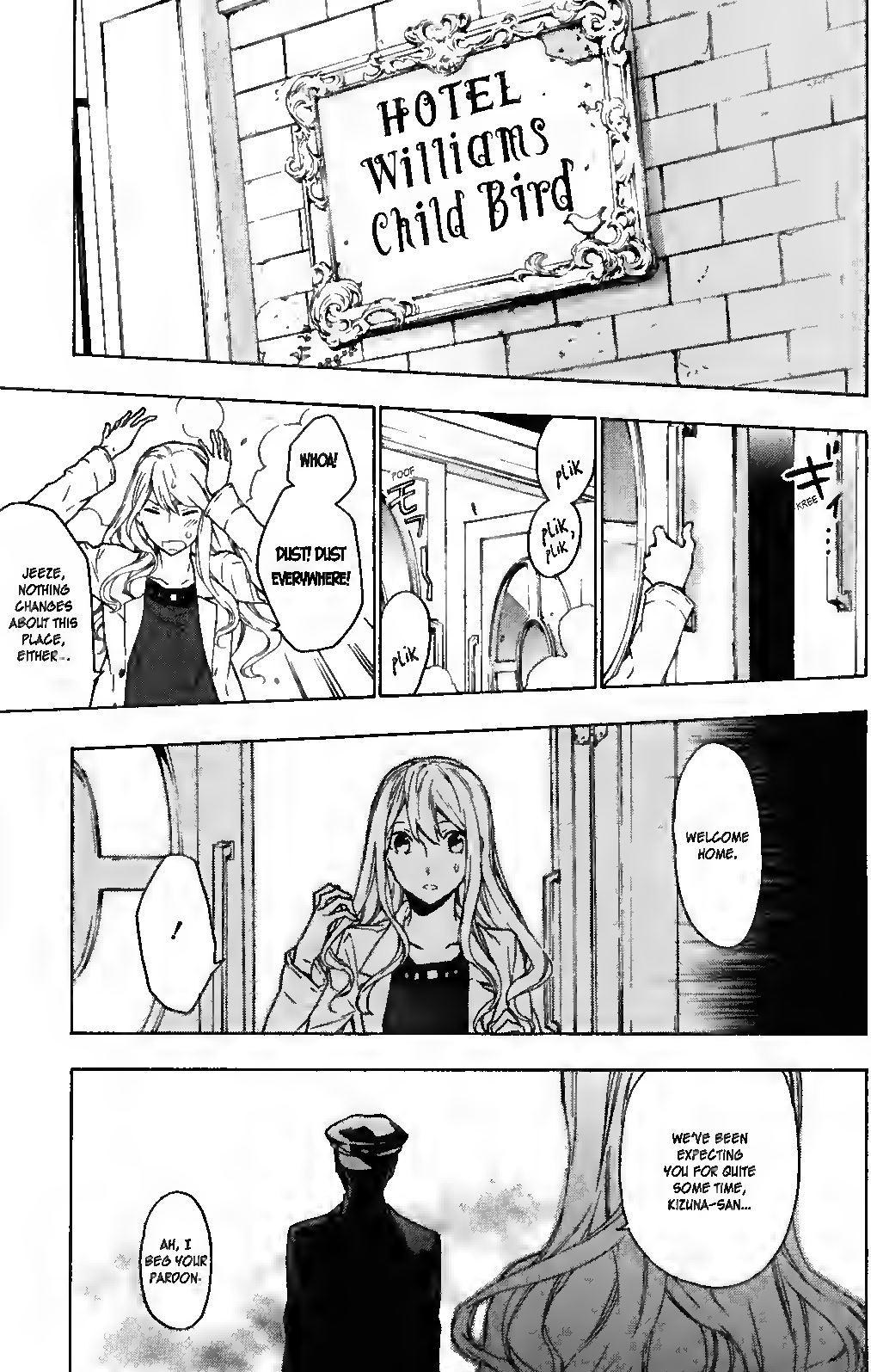
SAME OLD YUKI. I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE TURNED INTO A BACK-PACKER...

STILL, I'M GLAD HE'S DOING ALL RIGHT FOR HIMSELF.

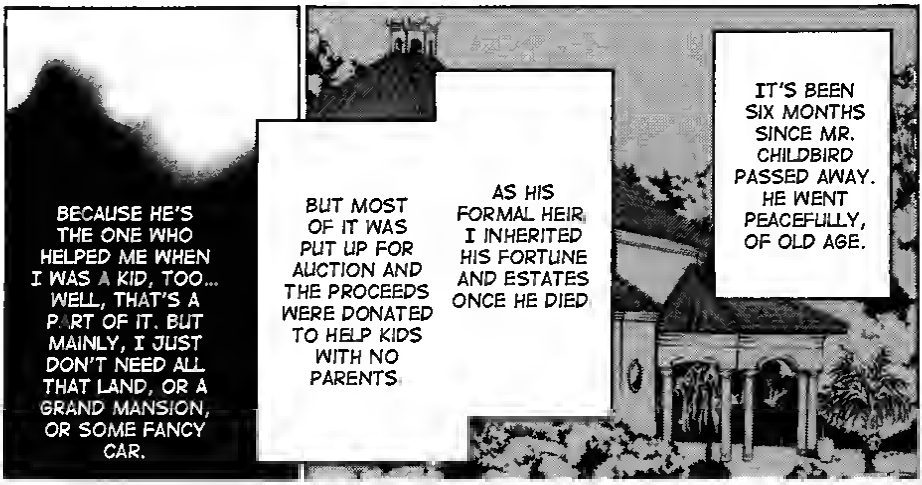


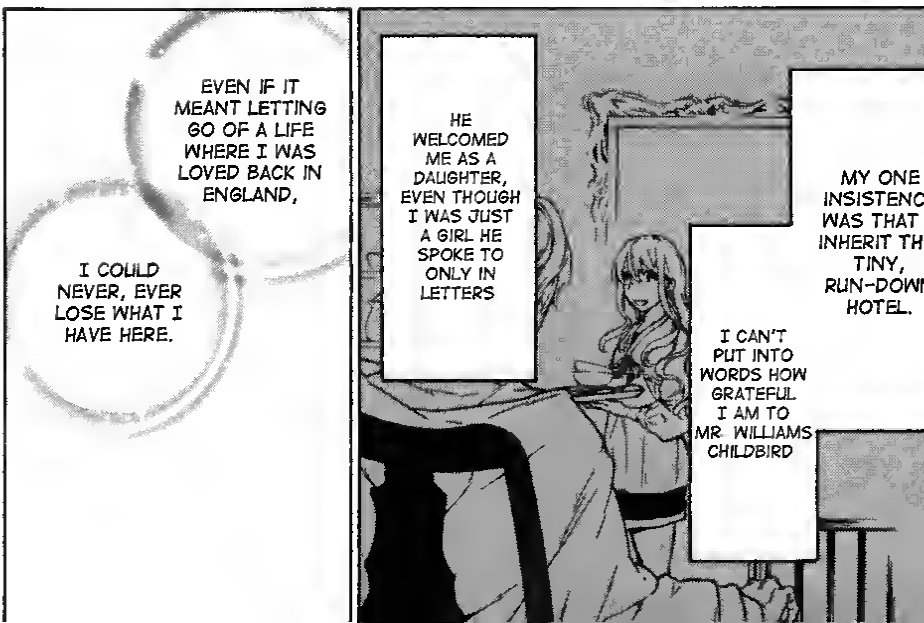

BUT...
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR ME TO GET USED TO BEING SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS AROUND THE SAME AGE AS ME
IT WAS FUN.
カラ…


NOTHING COULD EVER MAKE ME FORGET THE PLACE I COULD COME BACK TO. THE ONE PLACE I COULD CALL HOME.
WAS RIGHT HERE.

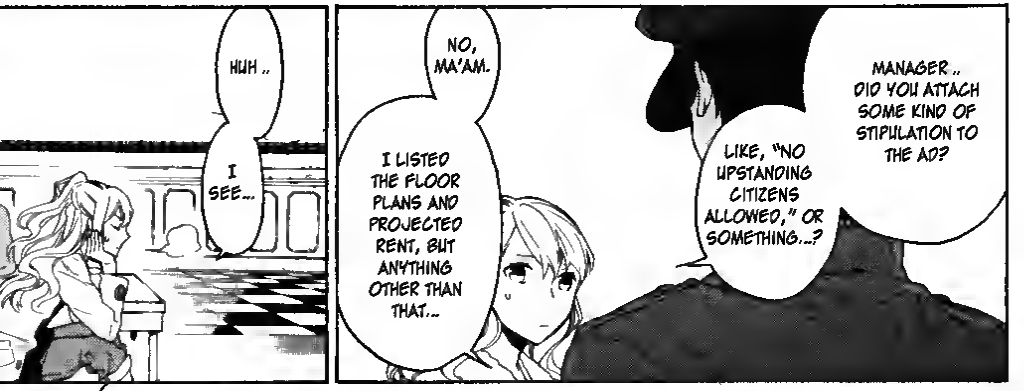

HOTEL
Williams
Child Bird
JEEZE, NOTHING CHANGES ABOUT THIS PLACE, EITHER...
WHOA!
DUST! DUST EVERYWHERE!
POOF
PLIK
PLIK, PLIK
PLIK
KREE
WELCOME HOME.
!
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME, KIZUNA-SAN...
AH, I BEG YOUR PARDON.

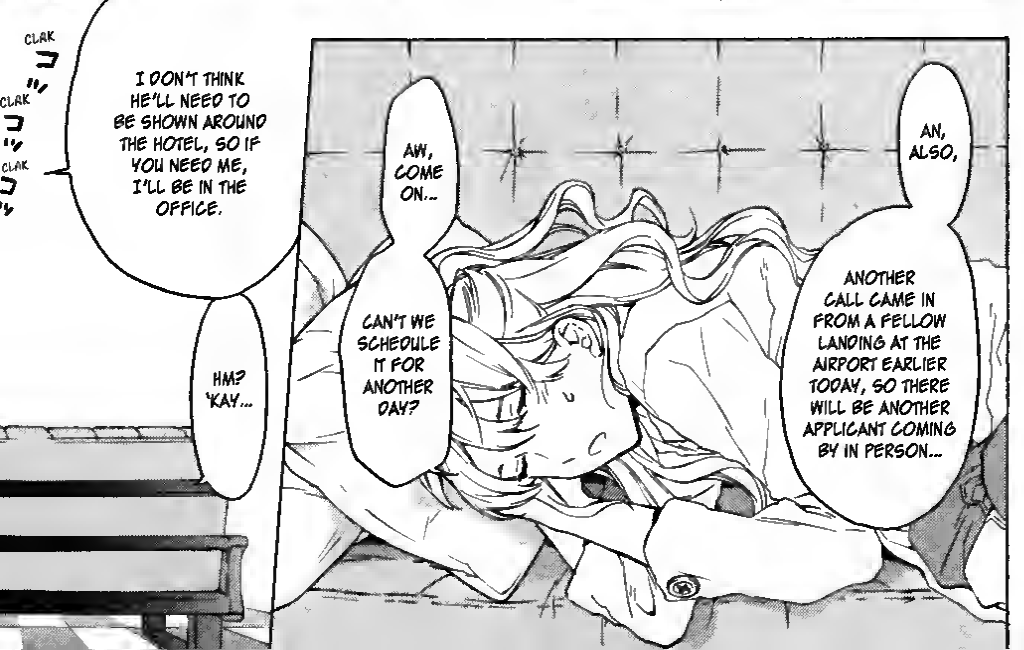
MISS OWNER.


IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS SINCE MR. CHILDBIRD PASSED AWAY. HE WENT PEACEFULLY, OF OLD AGE.
AS HIS FORMAL HEIR, I INHERITED HIS FORTUNE AND ESTATES ONCE HE DIED.
BUT MOST OF IT WAS PUT UP FOR AUCTION AND THE PROCEEDS WERE DONATED TO HELP KIDS WITH NO PARENTS.
BECAUSE HE'S THE ONE WHO HELPED ME WHEN I WAS A KID, TOO... WELL, THAT'S A PART OF IT. BUT MAINLY, I JUST DON'T NEED ALL THAT LAND, OR A GRAND MANSION, OR SOME FANCY CAR.


MY ONE INSISTENCE WAS THAT I INHERIT THIS TINY, RUN-DOWN HOTEL.
I CAN'T PUT INTO WORDS HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO MR. WILLIAMS CHILDBIRD
HE WELCOMED ME AS A DAUGHTER, EVEN THOUGH I WAS JUST A GIRL HE SPOKE TO ONLY IN LETTERS
EVEN IF IT MEANT LETTING GO OF A LIFE WHERE I WAS LOVED BACK IN ENGLAND,
I COULD NEVER, EVER LOSE WHAT I HAVE HERE.

THAT'S ALL OF THEM FOR TODAY, RIGHT...? MY HEAD'S KILLING ME.
AGHH.

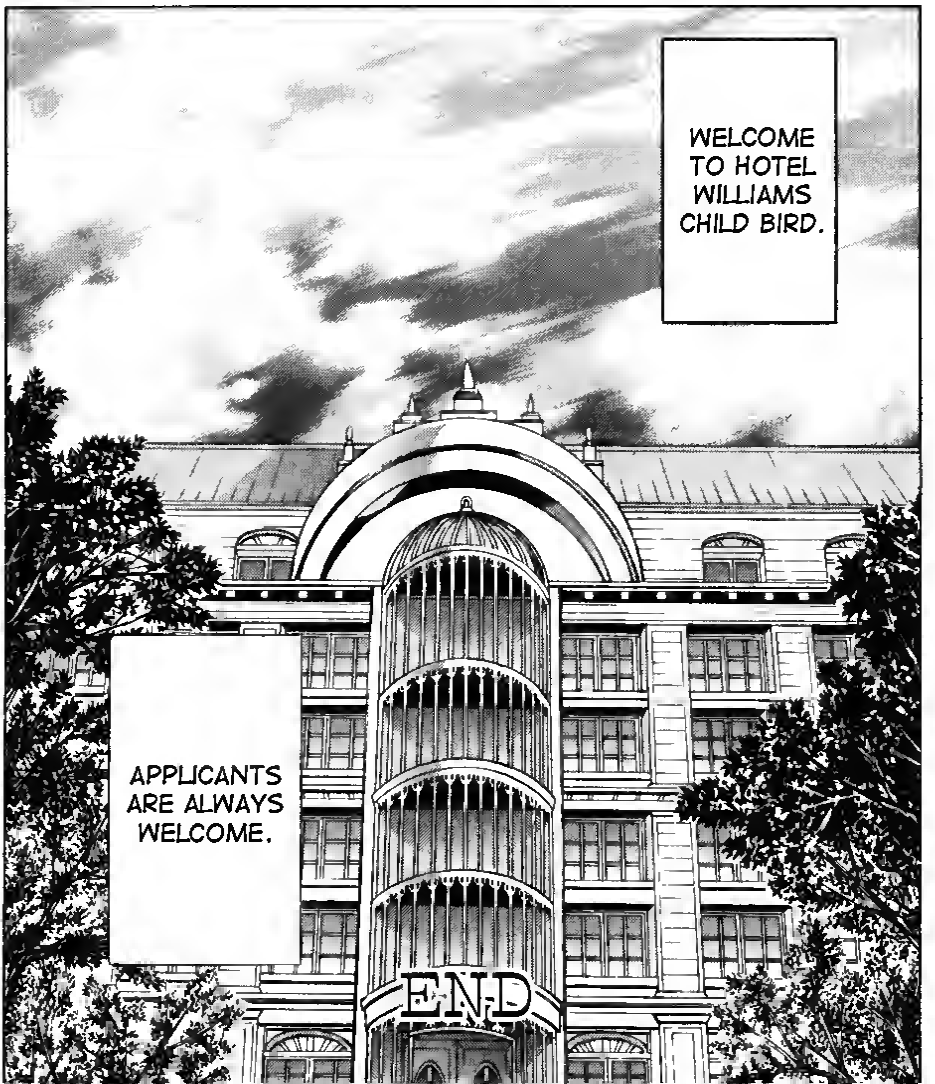

HUH..
I SEE...
NO, MA'AM.
I LISTED THE FLOOR PLANS AND PROJECTED RENT, BUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT...
MANAGER.. DID YOU ATTACH SOME KIND OF STIPULATION TO THE AD?
LIKE, "NO UPSTANDING CITIZENS ALLOWED," OR SOMETHING...?


CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
I DON'T THINK HE'LL NEED TO BE SHOWN AROUND THE HOTEL, SO IF YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE IN THE OFFICE.
AW, COME ON...
CAN'T WE SCHEDULE IT FOR ANOTHER DAY?
HM? 'KAY...
AN, ALSO,
ANOTHER CALL CAME IN FROM A FELLOW LANDING AT THE AIRPORT EARLIER TODAY, SO THERE WILL BE ANOTHER APPLICANT COMING BY IN PERSON...

KREE
fwoo
GIVE A GIRL SOME TIME TO CATCH HER BREATH...
AW...
ALREADY ...?
Roll
Roll
Roll

I'M LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO STAY...

...AND A MODEL.


WELCOME TO HOTEL WILLIAMS CHILD BIRD.
APPLICANTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.
END

Thank you, everyone, for reading the comicalization of "Birdcage Manor" until the very last chapter. And to Takarai-san, for interpreting the original into such a lovely adaptation, congratulations on a job well done!

The original story is created around the open-ended idea of "the everyday lives of strange people living in a strange hotel;" however, it was re-imagined into the story between Kizuna, Asai, and Yuki for the comic's publication in Sylph magazine. Their story was by no means a straight path from beginning to end, so I don't envy Takarai-san's task of piecing them together into a streamlined story. Thank you once again, Takarai-san, for creating from those pieces a story in your uniquely beautiful way.

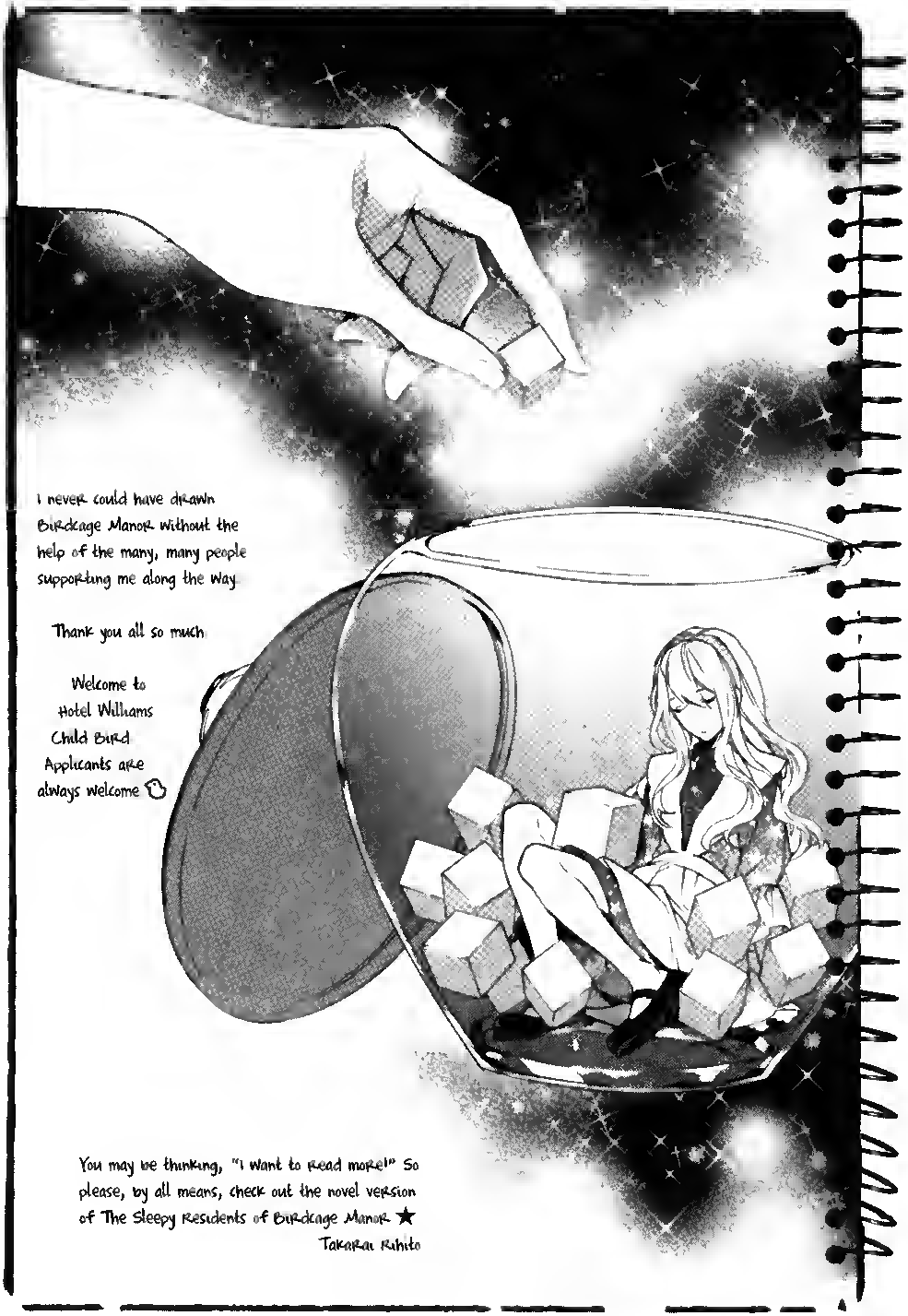
Of course, there are always the in-depth stories of Asai and Yuki's past, and the characters who were only mentioned in the comic: Kanoko the Goth-Loli, and her cat-suited daddy, and the unsettling, mysterious beauty, Helen, who is always in her nightdress... And so on, and so forth. Each of them are featured in their own stories in the novel, so if the mood takes you and you ever have the chance, I'd love for you to give it a read sometime.

On the other hand, there are characters not featured in the novel that made their appearances here in the comic. For instance, gallery-owner Osawa-san, who was transformed from just another face devoid of presence in the novel to a bespectacled young man who oozed sex-appeal in the comic. And Lum-san, from Yanlong's Deli, was created for the story especially by Takarai-san as well. By all means, read both the comic and the novel and compare their similarities and differences.

Now to close us off, I leave you with a line oft-repeated in the main story:

"Welcome to Hotel Williams Child Bird!"

April, 2011 on the occasion
of volume 3's publication
Kabei Yukako



I never could have drawn Birdcage Manor without the help of the many, many people supporting me along the way.

Thank you all so much.

Welcome to Hotel Wilhams. Child Bird Applicants are always welcome.

You may be thinking, "I want to read more!" So please, by all means, check out the novel version of The Sleepy Residents of Birdcage Manor ★

Takara Rihito

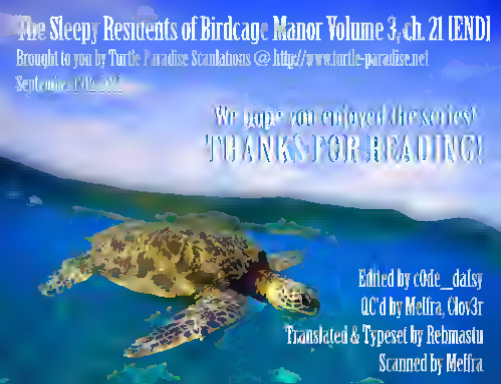
The Sleepy Residents of Birdcage Manor Volume 3, ch. 21 [END]

Brought to you by Turtle Paradise Scanlations @ http://www.turtle-paradise.net

September 19th, 2012

We hope you enjoyed the series!

THANKS FOR READING!



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